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TASS ON REAGAN'S 'FAR-FETCHED ACCUSATIONS'

LD110655 Moscow TASS in English 0641 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Washington March 11 TASS -- President Reagan has sent to Congress on Tuesday a a report accusing the Soviet Union of violating virtually all the Soviet-American arms control accords. Exposing these far-fetched accusations, an authoritative public organization, the Centre for Defense Information, has stated that the Soviet Union is faithfully respecting all the treaties and agreements. These far-fetched accusations are needed by the administration to hold back progress at the arms control talks and to distract attention from the fact that the United States has actually buried the SALT-2 treaty and would not stop nuclear testing.

REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUE GENEVA ARMS TALKS

LD101325 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Soviet and U.S. representatives are continuing talks in Geneva today on the recent USSR proposal for concluding without delay an agreement on eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. Last week both sides expressed optimism regarding the possibility of success in the dialogue.

NATO, PACT ENVOYS HOLD UNOFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS

LD091804 Moscow TASS in English 1751 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Vienna March 9 TASS -- Scheduled unofficial consultations of representatives of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO countries on questions of the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe were held here today.

FRENCH PAPERS CITE VORONTSOV NEWS CONFERENCE

'Exuded Optimism'

PM091610 Paris LE MONDE in French 8-9 Mar 87 p 3

[Alain Jacob report: "A Treaty Should Be Signed This Summer"]

[Text] Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived in Paris on Friday 6 March where he immediately gave a news conference at the embassy. He is due to return to Moscow in the middle of next week after his talks with the French leaders.

Mr Vorontsov exuded optimism. The head of the Soviet delegation to the Geneva negotiations, who had come to Paris for consultations -- he is due to meet with Foreign Minister Raimond, Prime Minister Chirac, and perhaps with President Mitterrand -- said that an agreement on the total withdrawal of the intermediate nuclear forces [INF] -- the USSR SS-20 missiles and the U.S. Pershing and Cruise missiles -- was virtually certain. The experts still have work to do because the "technical work" is particularly complex given that there has never before been agreement on "the liquidation of such a quantity of such powerful weapons."

It is the "destruction" of the missiles concerned -- starting with the nuclear warheads -- which is being discussed. Where will the missiles retained by both sides be retained? On the Soviet side, they will be east of the Urals; and on the U.S. side the location still has to be discussed. What about verification problems? The USSR is more demanding on this subject; the United States will have to adopt legislation authorizing the inspection of any sites situated on private property. There is no such problem in the Soviet Union. At all events, rapid progress must be made. The final details must not take "more than 3 or 4 months" so an agreement in due form is ready to be signed "in the summer."

When did the USSR accept the principle of such an agreement on the INF? "In Reykjavik of course...." That is not entirely true because, after Reykjavik, the Soviets refused to agree to anything but a "package" including the strategic nuclear forces and, more especially, severe restrictions on U.S. research in the "Star Wars" sphere. What has changed since then? Mr Vorontsov disputed the fact that there has been any "change." However, he consented there was a "danger of allowing things to drag on." An agreement on the INF might prove to be "a stimulus to negotiations in other spheres." It is necessary to "start at one end."

The French and British Forces [subhead]

Things look less favorable in these "other spheres": short-range nuclear missiles, central systems (strategic forces), chemical and conventional weapons, and, of course, space weapons, the main problem in this sphere being a "consolidation of the ABM Treaty." The Soviet negotiator has the feeling that his U.S. interlocutors" do not really know what they want," but he hopes that it will be possible to make progress "in Geneva in early April." He stressed "we are prepared for serious negotiations, it all depends on the United States."

Questioned several times on the inclusion of the French and British nuclear forces, Mr Vorontsov gave several new details:

1 -- These forces are completely separate from the draft agreement on the INF. The Soviet diplomat noted with satisfaction that this is the interpretation made by the French president and prime minister. He preferred to "refrain from criticizing" the viewpoint expressed by Defense Minister Andre Giraud, who spoke of a "Munich." "It is time we realized," he simply said, "that we must live without the bomb, we must overcome the bomb mentality."

2 -- With regard to the French and British tactical nuclear weapons, it will be difficult not to take them into account in the framework of negotiations on the reduction -- and possible elimination -- of Soviet and American short-range nuclear missiles (with a range of less than 1,000km) in Europe.

3 -- Finally the French and British strategic forces, although included in the "zero system," would not form part of the negotiations on a 50-percent reduction in the Soviet and U.S. strategic forces (envisaged by Mr Gorbachev in January 1986 and to be achieved within 5 years). On the other hand, they could not be left out of the second phase of these negotiations aimed at the total elimination of all nuclear forces in Europe.

Mr Vorontsov, who was perfectly "calm and collected" to cite his own description, reaffirmed that Mr Gorbachev's objective is a completely nuclear-free world by the year 2000. He admitted it is necessary to take the "psychological factor" into account. In his view, this 13-year period is "amply long enough to change people's attitudes."

'Agreement Before Summer'

PM100844 Paris LE FIGARO in French 7-8 Mar 87 p 2

[Stephane Marchand report: "Yuliy Vorontsov: An Agreement Before Summer"]

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, head of the Soviet delegation to the Geneva nuclear disarmament negotiations, yesterday reported on progress toward the signing of an agreement on the dismantling of the Euromissiles. In a news conference which he gave in Paris, he also said that his country was prepared for full reciprocal verification of such an agreement.

Mr Vorontsov said that an agreement could be reached before next summer. He justified this delay by the extreme technical complexity of the treaty's terms. He said he is very optimistic about the future of the negotiations and expressed the view that "this agreement will change the attitude of men on the planet; it will prove that nuclear disarmament is possible."

The Soviet negotiator devoted a significant part of his speech to the verification problem: "Hitherto this question has been the result of a Western initiative against the Soviet Union. This will change. We are very interested in this question and the West will have to get used to that fact."

"With regard to verification, the USSR will take the "offensive" Mr Vorontsov said, because "we want to be sure that the United States keeps its pledges." [quotation marks as published] "We demand access to all bases, all depots, and all places where these missiles are located," in Europe and the United States, he said, including "private manufacturing enterprises," if necessary asking the U.S. Administration to pass "special legislation" to guarantee this right.

Coversely, the United States will have the same rights to inspect Soviet SS-20 sites and installations, he explained.

A Residual Arsenal [subhead]

In the chemical weapons sphere, he asked the Western countries to authorize checks in all enterprises -- public or private -- involved in producing them.

While specifying that the current discussion on the Euromissiles do not relate to the French and British nuclear arsenals, he did not rule out the possibility of them being included in later talks with the Americans on strategic arms.

Regarding the Soviet short-range missiles (less than 1,000km) deployed in the GDR and Czechoslovakia, Mr Vorontsov repeated that they will be withdrawn as soon as agreement is reached on the Euromissiles.

Under the terms of the draft agreement on the Euromissiles, each of the two superpowers could keep 100 nuclear warheads mounted on intermediate-range missiles on its own territory. The USSR would deploy its missiles in Asia, and this has already caused concern in the PRC.

The United States, which would like to impose the existence of a single base for this residual arsenal, and which would be willing to construct such a base in Alaska, did not receive Mr Vorontsov's approval: "We will find a place for their Pershing missiles which interests us." On the other hand, he said it was up to each side to decide the nature of this residual arsenal. The Americans will, therefore, be able to maintain a mixture of Pershing-2 missiles (with a range of 1,800km) and cruise missiles (with a range of 2,500km).

Is the USSR taking advantage of President Reagan's weaker position as a result of "Irangate" to "force" the pace of the negotiations? Yuliy Vorontsov swore that "Washington's domestic affairs do not interest it" and his country is not motivated by the desire to sign at all costs before the U.S. President's term ends.

SFRY JOURNAL CITES KARPOV NUCLEAR FORCES FIGURES

LD061733 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1533 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Belgrade, March 6 (TANJUG) -- The Soviet disarmament proposals are essentially realistic, said department head at the Soviet Foreign Ministry and long-standing negotiator Viktor Karpov in an article published in the March issue of the Yugoslav journal Review Of International Affairs. He queried, however, whether the United States was ready to go half-way on the line opened at Reykjavik, the line which the Soviet Union continually proposes as leading to the common goal -- nuclear disarmament.

Karpov said that the nuclear disarmament program until the end of the century which was formulated by Mikhail Gorbachev a year ago, had demonstrated realistic prospects for the earliest possible and comprehensive reduction of nuclear weapons in the world. In Karpov's view, the Soviet proposals have maximum scope in the direction of the elimination of nuclear weapons, particularly offensive.

Karpov's article in the Review Of International Affairs also contains a chart with the exact numbers of U.S. and Soviet nuclear weapons on October 11, 1986, a copy of which Mikhail Gorbachev handed to Reagan in Reykjavik on October 12, 1986. The chart is now being published for the first time: The number of U.S. and Soviet offensive weapons on October 11, 1986 [all figures as received]:

	Soviet	U.S.
Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers	1398	1018
Including:		
Multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRV)	820	550
Submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBM)	922	672
Including:		
MIRV and SLBM launchers	352	640
Total number of ICBM and SLBM launchers	2320	1630
Including:		
ICBM and SLBM with MIRV	1172	1190
Strategic bombers (SB)	160	518
Including cruise missiles [CM] equipment	53	127
Total number of ICBM, SLBM, SB launchers	2418	2203
Including:		
ICBM, SLBM and SB launchers equipped with MIRV and CM	1225	1317
Total charges on strategic vehicles	10000	14800

PRESS COMMENTS ON U.S. WARHEAD 'GAP' CLAIM

SELSKAYA ZHIZN: 'Absurd'

PM061611 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 28 Feb 87 p 5

[TASS report: "Absurd Claims"]

[Text] New York, 27 Feb -- "The Pentagon has clearly gone over the top" -- this is how THE NEW YORK TIMES observer Michael Gordon described the latest forgery created by the Pentagon and released to reinforce the myth about "Soviet military threat."

The observer's sharp response was caused by the latest report on "the U.S. Military Position in the World" by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which presents yet another dubious "discovery" -- the U.S. "lag" behind the USSR in the field of the creation [sozdaniye] of new nuclear warheads. It is backed by absolutely no facts at all. Very simply, the compilers of the report, comparing the two sides' potential in 20 of the most important military-strategic spheres with the help of tables, took one of them -- "creation [sozdaniye] of new nuclear warheads -- and put next to it an upward red arrow, symbolizing a U.S. "lag."

The observer points out the absurdity of this claim. "Critics say that the Pentagon at times exaggerates Soviet military potential in its public reports to justify U.S. military programs. The latest conclusion in the report by the Chiefs of Staff evidently goes beyond everything that has appeared at any time in the past," Gordon notes. "It follows from the report that the Soviet Union has significantly overtaken the United States in the technology used for the creation [sozdaniye] of nuclear warheads. This is nothing new: After all, only last year the very same committee registered 'equality' of the sides in this sphere. Such a shift in the U.S. stance is particularly puzzling, bearing in mind that for 18 months the Russians have not conducted a single nuclear test, while the United States carried out 26 tests in the same period."

PRAVDA: 'Disinformation'

PM051523 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[A. Tolkunov "Rejoinder": "Test Ranges on Mars?"]

[Text] it is well known how Pentagon reports and research on the Soviet military threat put the fear of God into the ordinary man in the street. What methods are not used to frighten people...

Nevertheless, as THE NEW YORK TIMES acknowledges, the latest report from the Joint Chiefs of Staff exceeds all its predecessors. If Pentagon officials are to be believed, the Soviet Union is now outstripping the United States in... the technology of producing and developing nuclear warheads. This dangerous "gap" was only discovered recently since in last year's report the committee stated that the two sides were "equal" in this sphere.

So there you have it! Moscow did not carry out an explosion for 18 months, or, more precisely, 569 days, during which time Washington conducted 26 nuclear tests, and yet we are ahead! Perhaps an evil spirit helped us or perhaps our warheads were modernized on some Martian test range? For some reason the Pentagon report is silent on this. A lack of imagination, clearly.

Official Washington continues to resort to such base methods to try to justify its nuclear space course. They try so hard across the ocean to slander the Soviet peace initiatives aimed at the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and the Soviet Union's continuing insistent appeal for a complete end to tests.

However, it is not hard to tell black from white -- the disinformation from a concrete, honest program of peace and nuclear disarmament.

Bragin on Pentagon Plan

PM051240 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Nikolay Bragin "Commentator's Column": "You Cannot Prove the Unprovable"]

[Text] In Washington the Pentagon has announced its intention in the next 3 years to take another leap forward in the buildup of the U.S. strategic offensive potential, bringing it up to 20,000 nuclear charges by the beginning of the nineties.

Clearly the supporters of the nuclear arms race, who hold key posts in the U.S. Administration, have no intention of heeding the voice of reason and embarking on a path of real evaluation of the irreparable consequences that could result from heaping up countless stockpiles of lethal weapons of mass destruction on earth. On the contrary, judging from THE NEW YORK TIMES report, new efforts are now being made there to prove the unprovable: that the buildup of nuclear arsenals helps to "strengthen security." A far-fetched, absurd argument.

Indeed, surely it is clear that any attempt by one side to increase its own nuclear arsenals will speedily lead to countermeasures by the other side? The more weapons there are, the more likely it is that they will be used. That is axiomatic to all those who are concerned about the future of the world. The arms race, and above all the race for sophisticated types of arms, only kindles aggressive, adventurist ambitions, as can be seen from the White House and Pentagon gamble on the SDI program.

Added to this is the possibility that nuclear weapons could get out of control through some accident -- a technical error by a computer or irresponsibility on the part of someone with access to nuclear arsenals. The U.S. press has already reported many instances of a false "alarm," when the command to repel a "missile attack" was issued at U.S. military bases. Fortunately these errors were rectified. Where is the guarantee that something irremediable will not happen?

The propaganda machine maintained by the U.S. military-industrial complex claims that U.S. hardware excludes the possibility of "accidental errors and incidents" involving nuclear energy in any of its forms. The reality indicates otherwise. According to confidential figures from the U.S. Congress, many of the 151 accidents at the world's nuclear power stations which took place between 1971 and 1984 were in the United States. Computer errors constantly occur at military facilities. Cases of the "loss" of atom bombs by U.S. planes and collisions involving ships carrying nuclear weapons are known. In the last 20 years there have been more than 600 incidents involving U.S. nuclear weapons. Washington has so far managed to keep secret the majority of such "incidents." [paragraph continues]

This cannot for a moment alleviate the concern of the U.S. and world public, which resolutely demands an end to the sinister shadow of the nuclear threat to the planet.

That is why there has been such broad support for the USSR's proposal to conclude without delay an agreement on the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe. Everyone who is concerned not just in words but in practice about the future of the world thinks that the Soviet initiative set forth in M.S. Gorbachev's statement opens the way to the practical resolution of the most urgent problem of our day -- that of reducing nuclear arms, followed by the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

SHISHLIN ON REACTION TO GORBACHEV INF PROPOSAL

LD100650 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Commentary by International Affairs journalist Nikolay Shishlin from the "International Diary" program, presented by Nikolay Agayants]

[Text] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's statement and the new position adopted by the Soviet Union regarding medium-range missiles has evoked lively comment in political and public circles. Although the reaction has been varied on the whole, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of politicians and public figures welcome the bold Soviet initiative. They can see in this initiative a real opportunity to come, fairly quickly, to mutually acceptable decisions and to free Europe of nuclear medium-range missiles. (?It is difficult) to surmise how quickly the Geneva talks can progress and how quickly mutually acceptable solutions can be found. In this connection, one cannot but draw attention to individual statements by politicians, both European and American, in which even now all kinds of provisos are being made regarding the absolutely clear concept upon which, incidentally, an accord has already been reached at Reykjavik.

What sort of provisos are they? Well, they are provisos which maintain that, say, the Soviet Union has an advantage in Europe in conventional weapons; then before tackling the problem of medium-range weapons one should solve the question of conventional weapons. Then there is another proviso, that the question of monitoring the implementation of this concept and a possible Soviet-U.S. agreement will be very complex. Here again the Soviet position is well known -- that is, that we are in favor of the strictest monitoring if we are talking about radical solutions.

I do not think, of course, that the road ahead is an easy one, and our diplomats face difficult enough work at the negotiating table. Yet, the overall political atmosphere promises a real breakthrough in one of the key issues of international life: the issue of restricting and curtailing the arms race. It is not only the scrapping of medium-range missiles in Europe that will be valuable, but also the introduction of the missing elements of trust in international relations and the opening up of new horizons on the way to a nuclear-free world without violence.

MOSCOW ON CONDITIONS FOR RESUMING ISRAELI TIES

LD061024 Kuwait KUNA in English 0905 GMT 6 Mar 87

[By Khalid al-Tarrah]

[Text] Moscow, March 6 (KUNA) -- The Soviet Union said that it will resume its diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv only if Israel ceased aggressions against its Arab neighbours.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said in a press conference last night that neither Israel Premier Yitzhak Shamir nor Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres were willing to form a preparatory committee to prepare for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The Soviet Union broke its diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv following Israel's 1967 aggression against Arab countries.

Gerasimov charged that both Shamir and Peres are seeking to bar the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organization from taking part in any settlement to the Middle East problem.

He said that Israel's insistence that Moscow's participation in the Middle East settlement be linked to smoother emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the resumption of diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv is only a pretext.

On the Egyptian-Israeli statement issued following Peres's visit to Cairo last month Gerasimov said that the Israeli foreign minister called for a conference that will lead to unilateral and direct negotiations with the Arabs.

He noted that the majority of the Israeli Knesset members reject the convening of an international conference on finding a settlement to the Palestinian question.

On the Afghan problem he pointed out that the Afghan leader Najib had asked the Mujahiden to negotiate with him inside or outside Afghanistan, on the possibility of forming a coalition government.

On the emigration of the Soviet Jews abroad he said the Soviet authorities are studying thousands of requests by Jews to leave the country noting that applicants are not only Jews but also from other minorities.

REAGAN'S RADIO ADDRESS ELICITS REACTION

IZVESTIYA: 'Unchanged Position'

PM101519 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "United States: Pressure on Congress"]

[Text] Washington, 8 Mar -- U.S. President Reagan used his regular radio broadcast on Saturday to exert pressure on Congress with the aim of getting approval for the administration's plans to expand the undeclared war against Nicaragua.

He insisted on the necessity of immediately unfreezing $40 million dollars which were approved by the legislators in the form of help to the contra gangs in the present year's budget.

The head of the White House confirmed his administration's unchanged position concerning the export of counterrevolution and the support of CIA hirelings responsible for the death of peaceful inhabitants, ash heaps in the place of schools and hospitals, and destroyed settlements. The U.S. President called former Somozists, the backbone of the contra gangs, "fighters for peace" and "courageous people." "To throw them to the mercy of fate would be tantamount to betraying our own principles," the President proclaimed.

He crudely attacked the USSR's fraternal help to the Nicaraguan people and also the Soviet Union's support for the democratic reorganization in Afghanistan. The President's anti-Soviet attacks got mixed up with his assurances of support for the world's "freedom fighters," as the forces of reaction and counterrevolution are called in the White House. Reagan confirmed the commitment to the doctrine of neoglobalism adopted by the present administration and stated the United States' readiness to give help to any counterrevolutionary groups. Reagan characterized this policy of undisguised U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of other sovereign states and Washington's support and help for gangs of terrorists and murderers as evidence of a "firm policy for peace."

As David Bonior, member of the House of Representatives, stressed, when he presented the Democratic Party's reply on the radio, the United States is having to pay a high price for the undeclared war waged by the administration against Nicaragua. "Again and again," he said, "laws are broken to maintain the flow of financial aid to the contras even at a time when this has been banned by Congress. The administration repeatedly lies to the U.S. people. It denies that the U.S. Government ran a secret network to assist the contras." Noting that the Tower Commission report which investigated the "Iran-contras" scandal had left many questions unanswered, the congressman stated: "Mr President, the Americans deserve to know what your role was in this matter." He reported that next week a group of Democrats in the House of Representatives intends to introduce a draft resolution with the aim of blocking the granting of new funds to the contras until the administration gives a full account of the use of all appropriations directed to the counterrevolutionary gangs.

Shabayev on Address

LD101610 Moscow TASS in English 1532 GMT 10 Mar 87

["Road to a Dead-End" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS -- TASS political analyst Boris Shabayev reports:

In a recent radio address to U.S. citizens President Reagan confirmed the U.S. Administration's commitment to the "doctrine of neoglobalism", in other words, to the policy for flagrant interference in domestic affairs of sovereign states, deprivation of peoples of their legitimate rights, for intrigues, threats, acts of open aggression and subversive actions against governments objectionable to Washington. The essence of the policy was set out in a secret directive (approved by the White House) which was made public in the past. The document says that the USA should establish political domination over such key areas as the Caribbean and Mediterranean Seas, southern Africa, the Pacific and Indian Oceans, including the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, as well as over regions wherefrom valuable raw materials come.

This utterly cynical neoglobalist directive was born not from scratch. A similar "claim" for world domination had been made exactly 40 years ago by Harry Truman, one of Reagan's predecessors, who gave the fateful order of dropping A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Journalists called a "political atomic bomb" his message to the U.S. Congress where he spelled out the main provisions of the "Truman Doctrine": Struggle against democratic and progressive forces, broad military aid to reactionary regimes, establishment of a network of U.S. bases to ensure U.S. control positions in strategically important areas.

The "doctrine" was based on the insane idea of whitebleeding the socialist countries through the atomic blackmail and the stepped-up arms race, enmeshing the world with military blocs under the aegis of Washington and eventually putting the entire world to the knees in front of U.S. imperialism. Attempts to materialize the "doctrine" repeatedly brought the world to the brink of a nuclear disaster. But no matter how the masterminds of this and similar "doctrines" had tried, playing with the destinies of the world, they could not check the march of history and to reverse it.

The present U.S. Administration with its "doctrine of neoglobalism" follows, in fact, the same pernicious path which can lead only to a dead-end, to say the least.

Kuznetsov on Address, Baker

LD101142 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] In his weekly radio address on Saturday, a day after he announced that Secretary of State George Shultz would travel to Moscow next month, President Reagan returned to his get tough with the Russians rhetoric. This time it dealt with regional conflict, Nicaragua and Afghanistan in particular. Our observer Pavel Kuznetsov makes this comment.

[Kuznetsov] Saying that he was particularly disappointed with the failure to resolve regional conflicts with the USSR, the President sidestepped the issue of national reconciliation pursued by the Afghan Government with the aim of stopping the strife uniting all sides around the flag of a sovereign and nonaligned Afghanistan and bringing about the subsequent withdrawal of a Soviet military contingent. Nor did he say anything about what the United States could do to make the process less painful instead of protracting an undeclared war there. As far as Nicaragua goes, the Tower Commission report has opened many eyes as to who fans regional conflicts by granting illegal aid to the contras and trading hostages for weapons in the Iran-Iraq war. The President's radio address on Saturday was narrower in scope than his nationally televised response to the Tower Commission report on the Iran scam and therefore was barely noticed.

Perhaps there's only one reason why that radio address deserves any mention at all. Getting tough with the Russians, or anybody else for that matter, is counterproductive and hopefully Howard Baker, the President's choice for the White House chief of staff post, will not only be instrumental in patching up the President's team and preventing it from sliding even deeper into disgrace but will also be of some help in the area of official language and manners. After all, there's work ahead on medium-range arms in Europe. A mood of hope and optimism has settled around the globe following the Soviet Union's offer to treat this area separately. The situation with the radio address on Saturday reminds me of a driver who sits low when his car goes skidding on a slippery highway but when by a stroke of luck he regains control of it, beneath the cold sweat the driver feels some of his previous confidence returning. Machismo in politics is like carefree driving on slippery roads. We would be better off if we slowed down.

PAPER CITES DRAFT REAGAN IMPEACHMENT RESOLUTION

PM101337 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 7 Mar 87 p 3

[TASS report: "Assurances Are No Longer Believed"]

[Text] Washington, 6 Mar -- A draft resolution, demanding the removal of President Reagan from power and the institution of proceedings against him by way of the impeachment procedure for the sale of arms to Iran and the transfer of funds earned thereby to the Nicaraguan contras, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday [5 March]. Democrat Representative Henry Gonzalez, who introduced the bill, declared that by his actions Reagan has damaged the country's national security and breached the laws governing arms sales abroad and the law making it incumbent upon him to notify Congress of secret U.S. operations abroad.

The introduction of the draft resolution on impeachment took place at a time when the administration and its supporters are artificially building up euphoria around Reagan's speech on national television 2 days ago, in which the President gave Americans sworn assurances that "mistakes" like the Iranian operation will never recur. Now, CBS-TV points out, the White House is speaking about "overwhelming approval by Americans for Reagan's speech.

Despite all the administration's efforts to present the President's speech as a triumph, Americans' reaction to it was far from unambiguous. According to an ABC-TV report, the President's brother Neil believes that the President had sanctioned the transfer of profits from the deal with Iran to the Nicaraguan contras even though he claims that he did not even know about it. Replying to a question by a journalist from the newspaper CITIZEN, published in the San Diego area, Neil Reagan declared: "I could argue that, when Congress denied him money for the contras, he got back to his office and said: There are many ways to skin a cat (this expression means something like "there are vairous methods to solve a problem" -- TASS note)." When the President was informed of his brother's words, he said: "I'll skin him alive."

Despite the entire show now being organized by the administration in an attempt to cover up its illegal actions, the essence of U.S. policy toward Nicaragua remains unchanged. A few days ago R. Reagan sent to Congress a request to appropriate an additional $40 million to the contra gangs.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON NICARAGUA POLICY

PM110859 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report under general heading: "Nicaragua in the Face of Aggression"]

[Text] Washington, 7 Mar -- The Reagan administration is not interested in a peaceful settlement in Central America, F. McNeil, former assistant director of the U.S. State Department Intelligence and Research Bureau, said Friday at congressional hearings. The only solution with regard to Nicaragua which would suit the White House, he stressed while addressing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is to "throw the Sandinists in the ocean."

"No one in Central America believes that we seriously want a peaceful settlement," McNeil pointed out. He left the State Department in February, where he had worked for more than 30 years, due to differences over the administration's adventurist course aimed at escalating its armed interference in Central America.

Addressing the committee after McNeil, E. Abrams, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, claimed that the White House is trying to reach a "solution to the crisis in Central America through negotiation" which would "ensure fair and lasting peace" in the region. Abrams' statements, however, are at variance with well known facts and are even regarded skeptically on Capitol Hill. One senator frankly said in this respect that he believes Abrams no more than he believes Oliver North -- one of the main protagonists in the notorious political scandal now raging in Washington caused by the disclosure of the White House affair -- supplying weapons to Iran and illegally financing the Nicaraguan contras out of the profits.

A special report published Wednesday by a research group of Democratic Congressmen headed by Mike Lowry, member of the House of Representatives, points out: "The governments of Central American countries are indignant over attempts by the Reagan administration to block or undermine efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement" in the region.

TRUD ON VISA REFUSAL TO TRADE DELEGATION

PM101451 Moscow TRUD in Russian 10 Mar 87 p 3

[Political observer A. Repin article: "Against the Spirit of the Times. U.S. Authorities Again Refuse Visas to Soviet Trade Union Delegation"]

[Text] The discriminatory U.S. visa policy as it applies to trade union representatives has long been common knowledge within the international trade union movement. The Department of State has refused visas to rank-and-file workers, trade union leaders, journalists, lecturers, and even members of tourist groups. The latest discriminatory action by the Washington authorities is particularly provocative. Let us relate everything in order.

In January 1987 AUCCTU Chairman S.A. Shalayev received a letter from William Winpisinger, president of the International Association (trade union) of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. [paragraph continues]

The leader of one of the largest U.S. trade unions, who is also vice president of the AFL-CIO trade union association, confirmed in a previous invitation to representatives of Soviet trade unions and experts to take part in the work of a conference on labor safety, health, and social services organized by his trade union. A justified wish was expressed that, when determining the delegation's membership, the conference agenda should be borne in mind: the affects of radiation in the event of acciddents at nuclear power stations; chemical elements and their carcinogenic properties; noise, stress situations, and other production factors detrimental to health; and problems of the struggle against alcoholism and drug addiction.

The invitation was accepted. The delegation's membership was determined fully in accordance with the U.S. side's wish. AUCCTU Secretary G.F. Sukhoruchenkova was to head the delegation. She is in charge of questions of trade unions' work in the sphere of labor safety, social security, and environmental protection. The delegation included A.P. Semenov, chief of the Labor Safety Section and AUCCTU chief technical inspector of labor; N.I. Zinovyev, chairman of the Heavy Machine Building Workers Union Central Committee; Yu. S. Zubenko, secretary of the Ukrainian Republic Trade Union Council; Ye. N. Osinkin, chairman of the "ZIL" Production Association Trade Union Committee; Professor V.I. Ivanov, head of department at the Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute; N.F. Izmerov, director of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences Scientific Research Institute for Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases; E.A. Kolodin, director of the AUCCTU All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Labor Safety in Leningrad; two senior staffers of the AUCCTU International Section; and an interpreter.

The delegation members prepared extensive reports and accounts, including an account by Yu.S. Zubenko, secretary of the Ukrainian Republican Trade Union Council, on trade unions' participation in work to eliminate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl AES. These materials were translated into English in advance. A photographic exhibition on the subject of labor safety in the USSR was prepared and the exhibits were converted into slide form. The delegation's portfolio also included a videotape of a movie about Chernobyl.

The results of all this preparatory work, which consumed a considerable amount of the time of very busy people and was produced at the cost of painstaking labor, were to remain inaccessible to the participants in the Washington conference. On 9 March, the day the conference opened, the seats allocated to the Soviet delegation were empty and the delegation itself was in Moscow. The Aeroflot aircraft departed New York on the previous day. The members of the Soviet delegation simply did not receive visas to enter the United States. Even though all the visa application documents had been submitted within the time specified by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, an inquiry by the U.S. trade union made to the State Department 17 days after they had been filed elicited a reply alleging that it "knew nothing" about any visa requests.

The Soviet delegation members gave a news conference yesterday. AUCCTU Secretary G.F. Sukhoruchenkova; Prof V.I. Ivanov; academician N.F. Izmerov of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences; and other delegation members expressed bewilderment and regrets in connection with the stance taken by the U.S. State Department. A dialogue on the noble subject of labor safety and people's health failed to take place through the fault of the adversaries of normal contacts between U.S. and USSR working people's organizations.

It was noted at the news conference that the latest visa action by the United States is discriminatory against both Soviet and U.S. trade unions: The State Department dictates to trade unions whom they should or should not welcome.

Proceeding from the profoundly humanitarian nature of the conference agenda, the members of the Soviet delegation announced in a telegram sent to the conference participants an opportunity for a delegation of U.S. trade union labor safety experts to be welcomed in the USSR.

Informing their colleagues that the U.S. State Department wrecked the Soviet trade union delegation's participation in the conference, the Soviet delegation members declare in their telegram: "This is by no means the first instance of such actions by the Department of State, which, as a rule, refers to provisions of immigration law from the height of the 'cold war' and to the AFL-CIO leadership's negative attitude toward USSR-U.S. trade union exchanges.

"We are firmly convinced that a fruitful USSR-U.S. exchange of experience in the struggle against dangers threatening the lives and health of working people in production would be of mutual benefit. We therefore sincerely regret that one more specific chance for such cooperation was not utilized through the fault of those who continue to adhere to the dogmas of anti-Sovietism to the detriment of considerations of reason and humanity and despite the vital interests of working people."

A question as to whether Soviet entry visas have ever been refused to U.S. trade union delegations invited to the USSR was asked in particular at the news conference. The answer was: This has never happened. Another indicative reply was given by G.F. Sukhoruchenkova, who was asked which Western countries she had visited as a Soviet trade union representative: Britain, the FRG, Italy, Spain, France, Japan, Australia, and several other capitalist states. Only the United States keeps apart from international trade union contacts, which means human contacts, in breach of the spirit and letter of the Helsinki agreements.

SHULTZ PRC VISIT, CAPITALIST PERSUASION EFFORTS

PM101417 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Ye. Sevastyanov article under the rubric "Notes on International Themes": "Shultz' Visit to the PRC"]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state has been in China on an official visit. G. Shultz was received by Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and premier of the State Council; Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the CPC Central Advisory Commission; PRC President Li Xiannian; Li Peng, vice premier of the State Council; and Zhang Aiping, minister of national defense; and had talks with Wu Xueqian, minister of foreign affairs. G. Shultz also visited a number of Chinese cities.

According to the Western press, the head of the U.S. State Department sought above all to clarify whether or not the approach of the Chinese leadership to the United States has changed as a result of the stepped up struggle against bourgeois ideology in the PRC. The U.S. ruling circles, which in recent years have quite openly concentrated their efforts on persuading the Chinese people on the "advantages" of the capitalist way of development, view these measures with extreme alarm.

The visit has shown that Washington has not given up these attempts. Both during his talks with the Chinese leaders and in his public pronouncements, G. Shultz did his utmost to sell capitalism and private enterprise and called on China to expand its ties with the outside world.

The Chinese side reaffirmed its invariable commitment to the policy of boosting the economy and expanding ties with the outside world, including the United States. At the same time, it was pointed out that the implementation of this course "would be impossible without the leadership of the Communist Party and without socialism in China," without the building of "socialism with Chinese characteristics." Deng Xiaoping also told G. Shultz that the "struggle against bourgeois liberalization is a long-term cause."

During the talks in Beijing, much attention was paid to bilateral Sino-American relations. The PRC leaders noted the progress that has been achieved in these relations, but against drew attention to the need to remove the "obstacle" of Taiwan. According to PRC President Li Xiannian, Taiwan is China's "most burning question."

The essence of the problem is that despite its pledges and constant assurances, Washington continues to supply the Kuomintang regime in Taiwan with weapons and essentially implements the so-called "Two-Chinas" policy. As R. Montenegro, member of a Panamanian Legislative Assembly delegation, stated at a recent news conference in Beijing, the United States has gone as far as to pressure his country and other Central American states, demanding that they preserve their diplomatic ties with Taiwan and refrain from normalizing relations with the PRC.

Questions of bilateral trade and economic relations also were discussed in Beijing. After all, according to the U.S. side, the volume of American-Chinese trade exceeded $8 billion last year, direct U.S. investments in the PRC economy totaled $1.5 billion, and some 60 joint enterprises and about a dozen enterprises based solely on U.S. capital are already in operation.

G. Shultz' visit confirmed that not all is well in the sphere of economic contacts between China and the United States. The Chinese leaders drew attention to U.S. trade protectionism, to the restrictions imposed on PRC imports, and noted that this is detrimental to economic cooperation between the two countries. It also was pointed out that Washington continues to restrict the PRC's access to U.S. technology.

In response, the secretary of state promised that Washington would facilitate China's access to advanced U.S. technology in return, so to speak, for a reduction of deliveries of Chinese textiles to the United States.

During his stay in the Chinese capital, G. Shultz raised the question of the U.S. journalists who were recently expelled from the PRC for activities incompatible with their professional status. Foreign news agencies note that the sides were unable to find a common language on this subject.

Wide-ranging international questions were discussed at the talks.

The Chinese side reiterated that China conducts an independent and autonomous foreign policy, is interested in the improvement of the international situation, and will tirelessly continue to seek to contribute to disarmament, the relaxation of international tension, and the defense of peace throughout the world.

According to XINHUA, the sides briefed each other on the present state of their relations with the Soviet Union "as regards both problems and assets." The Chinese leadership mentioned the successful resumption of border talks and the development of economic cooperation on dozens of industrial projects.

G. Shultz said that he discussed with the Chinese leaders the situation in Asia, questions of the Iran-Iraq war, the situation in Nicaragua, as well as the problem of international terrorism. The U.S. secretary of state claimed that the talks confirmed that Beijing and Washington have "common interests" with regard to "some of the main sources of tension in Asia," among which he cited in particular the situation around Afghanistan and Cambodia. At the same time, he noted that in addition to "shared and close positions," there are "differences and divergences of opinion" in approaches to international problems.

In this context, I would like to note that the differences in the positions of the PRC and the United States on problems of ensuring international security and disarmament are becoming increasingly noticeable. China has criticized the Washington administration's "Strategic Defense Initiative." In addition to the pledge adopted in 1964 not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, the PRC announced in 1986 that it was ending nuclear tests in the atmosphere. On 10 February, China acceded to the treaty on a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific (the Rarotonga Treaty). A few days ago, a PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced the "Team Spirit-87" U.S.-South Korean maneuvers. The Chinese press is drawing attention to the astronomical growth of U.S. military spending, the intensification of neoglobalist tendencies in the foreign policy strategy of the Reagan administration, and the reactionary phenomena in its domestic policy course. Beijing also has expressed displeasure at the militarization of Japan.

At the talks in Beijing, the U.S. side behaved more correctly in its public pronouncements about the Soviet Union than has been the case in the past. Probably for the first time, a White House representative of Shultz' rank told the Chinese side without any reservations of the Reagan administration's positive approach to the improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations, describing it as an "excellent thing."

On the other hand, R. Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense, claimed publicly in the U.S. House of Representatives a few days ago that the United States and China share a "common concern for security in connection with the growing threat to both our countries from the Soviet Union."

In general, G. Shultz' talks in Beijing demonstrated the sides' interest in the development of Sino-American relations.

China as a great socialist power is striving for a balanced, autonomous, and independent foreign policy, which would accord to the maximum extent with the tasks of the acceleration of socioeconomic development and the strengthening of the socialist way of life in the country and contribute to the enhancement of the PRC's role in the world arena and its contribution to the strengthening of peace and peoples' security.

PRAVDA CITES HONGQI ON SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT

PM091555 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Article in the Journal HONGQI: Adhering to a Socialist Path"]

[Text] Beijing, 27 Feb -- Following a socialist path and building socialism with specific Chinese characteristics and, ultimately, communism constitute the basic trend of China's historical development, says an article published in HONGQI, the Communist Party of China Central Committee's theoretical journal.

The journal writes that the CPC has considered socialism and communism as the lofty ideals of its struggle since the start of the era of democratic revolution. Under the CPC's leadership, the people of the country have overcome enormous hardships and trials to create a new socialist China. As a result of socialist transformations in town and country, a socialist system has been established. The fact that the most populous state in the world embarked on the socialist path is one of the major events of the 20th century, an event which was not only a turning point in China's destiny, but which also has exerted a strong influence on the development of world history. Socialism has enabled the Chinese nation to flourish, and China is playing an increasingly weighty role in international affairs.

However, the CPC Central Committee organ notes, some people in the PRC, disregarding these great changes, groundlessly denigrate the socialist system and laud and embellish the merits of capitalism. The main aim of these actions is to reject the socialist system in an attempt to shift the country on to a capitalist path.

It should be borne in mind, the article says, that China began building socialism after a long period of imperialist depredation and domination by semifeudal exploitation and oppression and in the conditions of postwar collapse. Serious oversights occurred in economic policy. Nevertheless, China created an independent and relatively integrated system of industry and of the national economy as a whole. Compared to 1949, the production of the most important kinds of industrial products has increased many times over. For example, steel production increased to 46.79 million metric tons in 1985, coal extraction grew to 872 million metric tons, electricity generation to 410.7 billion kilowatt-hours, and oil to 124.9 million metric tons, which has elevated the PRC to, respectively, fourth, second, fifth, and sixth rankings in the world.

Considerable success has been achieved in the agricultural sphere. Today, through a sensible system of distribution and the stabilization of grain prices, China -- where around one-fourth of the world's population lives -- meets its people's basic requirements. Only socialism could have resolved the question of feeding hundreds of millions of people. This is vivid evidence of its advantages, HONGQI stresses. While noting that the PRC population's standard of living "is still relatively low," the journal writes that it is the CPC which, having pointed out China's lag behind developed capitalist countries in economics, technology, culture and other spheres, has developed a course of reforms and a policy of expanding ties with the outside world.

However, it is impossible to demand that this enormous leeway built up over the centuries be completely made up in a few decades. Despite the fact that socialism in our country is not yet complete, it is far superior to the capitalist system with its inherent violation of peple's fundamental interests, social stratification, and relations of mutual deception and distrust. Our system is daily improving and making use of and absorbing all the best things achieved in various countries of the world, capitalism is incapable of doing this, the journal points out.

In accordance with the demands of scientific socialism, it is essential in the economics sphere to adhere to the chief criterion -- a system of socialist social ownership and a planned economy as the bases -- and to implement the principle of distribution according to labor. We have made many errors in the sphere of implementing democracy and law and order, the journal writes, and there are many flaws in the political structure. These questions will be resolved without fail.

One should not prattle on about democracy under the capitalist system or conceal the nature of bourgeois democracy, which is essentially legalized and camouflaged exploitation of the majority by the minority. In the sphere of spiritual culture, the socialist countries, proceeding from the fundamental interests of their peoples, share common ideals, aims, and moral criteria; socialist relations among people have formed in them; and a Marxist worldview is the supreme form of socialist consciousness.

We must study capitalist countries' achievements in science and technology and their culture, but we must in no circumstances borrow corrupt bourgeois ideology, indulge in "wholesale borrowing," or preach the ideas of capitalism on the pretext of "combating feudalism."

By keeping to the socialist path, China will continue its course of developing reforms and the policy of expanding ties with the outside world. These directives will be enriched and filled with new content, the article says in conclusion.

AMUR NAVIGATION OFFICIAL ON PRC BORDER TRADE

OW090507 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 8 Mar 87

["Your Neighbor" program: Dispatch by station reporter (Venikova) from the Amur River Navigation Administration on border trade with PRC]

[Excerpts] The Amur River Administration, the largest inland river navigation administration in the Soviet Union, is known for its good coordination between seamen and harbor administrative staff. [passage omitted]

In an interview with this reporter, deputy director of the administration (Baranov) said: The staff of the Amur River Navigation Administration has maintained regular contacts with its Chinese counterparts, especially with the staff of the Heilongjiang Navigation Bureau. As you know, the loading of goods onto Soviet ships at China's Tongjiang Port resumed last year. During its visit to China, the Soviet staff had a cordial and friendly meeting with Chinese longshoremen loading goods onto Soviet ships.

Turning to official contacts between Soviet and Chinese river navigation staff, (Baranov) said: Recently, a delegation of experts of the Amur River Navigation Administration visited Heilongjiang. After returning to the Soviet Union, members of the delegation gave an account of the warm reception accorded to them in China. Chinese navigation staff accompanied the Soviet visitors on a tour of Harbin Port and its shipyard and exchanged experiences with them. A Chinese delegation paid a return visit to Khabarovsk. We had lengthy discussions with the Chinese counterparts on expanding cooperation.

(Baranov) continued: Problems arising in the shipment of goods from both sides were solved promptly and in a businesslike manner. For instance, take the shipment of 25,000 metric tons of soybeans from China within a month after consultations with the Chinese side. Soviet and Chinese river navigation staff have closely cooperated and assisted each other. Bilateral relations have become more cordial after every meeting. As you know, personal contacts are conducive to work, friendship, and cooperation.

In conclusion, (Baranov) said: I am very pleased to point out that trade between the Soviet Union and the PRC has grown year after year. This is an indication of the strengthening of our good-neighborly relations.

SHEVARDNADZE CONTINUES TALKS, MEETINGS IN LAOS

Talks With Lao Leaders

PM111108 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In an Atmosphere of Friendship and Complete Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] Vientiane, 10 March -- On 9 March E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, who is here on an official friendly visit, met Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and Chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers.

E.A. Shevardnadze conveyed to Kaysone Phomvihan cordial greetings and the good wishes of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and of Soviet party and state figures. For his part, Kaysone Phomvihan asked for his sincere thanks for the good wishes and attention to be passed on to M.S. Gorbachev and the other Soviet leaders.

A friendly conversation was held in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding. Satisfaction was expressed over the dynamic development of relations of fraternal friendship and all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and Laos, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism.

Kaysone Phomvihan told of the fulfillment of the tasks advanced by the fourth congress of Lao communists for the construction in the LPDR of the foundations of a socialist society and the defense of the achievements of the revolution, and of the measures to accelerate the country's economic development.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership and all the Soviet people, E.A. Shevardnadze wished the Lao Communists and all the fraternal Lao people successful achievement of the planned targets.

The USSR minister of foreign affairs told about the progress of the Soviet people's implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and gave information about the results of the January (1987) plenum of the party's Central Committee, which determined ways of renovating and perfecting Soviet society with the aim of fully uncovering the mighty potential of socialism.

Kaysone Phomvihan gave a high appraisal of the decisions of the January (1987) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, noting that the problems raised at the plenum echoed the tasks that the Lao Communists also are resolving now.

In the course of an exchange of opinions on issues of international life it was noted that in the conditions of the tension being maintained in the world through the fault of imperialism, particular importance is attached to the unity and cohesion of the socialist countries, the further coordination of their efforts in the world arena, and in Asia in particular, toward averting the threat of nuclear war, ending the arms race, and security peace and universal security.

Kaysone Phomvihan expressed the firm support of the LPRP and of all the Lao people for the large-scale Soviet foreign policy initiatives, aimed at disarmament, not allowing the militarization of space, strengthening peace, and developing cooperation between states.

Participants in the meeting expressed the belief that security and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region can be ensured if the considered and well thought-out ideas contained in M.S. Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok are implemented. The USSR and the LPDR are in favor of the development of stable, equitable and mutually advantageous relations between the countries of the region, and a joint search for ways toward a political settlement to the regional conflicts that exist here. The mutual conviction was expressed that the Delhi Declaration of principles for a nuclear-free and non-violent world opens new prospects for achieving good-neighborliness and cooperation in the world.

On the Soviet side, support was reaffirmed for the constructive proposals and practical steps of Laos, which, together with Vietnam and Cambodia, is in favor of improving the political climate in Southeast Asia and turning it into a zone of peace, good-neighborliness and cooperation, which is the general contribution of the fraternal countries of Indochina to creating an all-embracing system of international security.

Taking part in the conversation were: On the Lao side -- Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Politburo, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and LPDR minister of foreign affairs; and Sali Vongkhamsao, member of the LPRP Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the LPRP Central Commiteee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chairman of the LPRP State Planning Committee;

On the Soviet side -- I.A. Rogachev, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Yu.Ya. Mikheyev, USSR ambassador to the LPDR.

That same day, talks were held between E.A. Shevardnadze and Phoun Sipaseut, in which Sali Vongkhamsao also took part.

The sides discussed the state of, and prospects for the development of the entire package of bilateral Soviet-Lao relations, and noted their forward trend with satisfaction.

The principled significance was stressed of the meetings between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers, for determining the key guidelines for the continued interaction between the Soviet Union and Laos in all spheres of their multifaceted cooperation.

During their examination of the international situation, the ministers expressed their concern over the tension that persists in the world, and roundly condemned the course being pursued by the forces of imperialism, headed by the United States, of escalating the nuclear amrs race, militarizing space, and kindling conflict situations in various regions of the world.

Various aspects of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, including in Southeast Asia, were the object of particular attention.

The talks passed in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship and cordiality, and again underscored the total unity of views on all the issues discussed.

The USSR minister of foreign affairs laid a wreath at the monument to the fighters of the Lao revolution who laid down their lives for the cause of national liberation.

The LPRP Central Committee and the LPDR Government gave a reception in honor of E.A. Shevardnadze, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

E.A. Shevardnadze delivered a report a meeting of the staff of Soviet institutions in the LPDR. Those assembled were briefed on the results of the January 1987 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. Soviet institutions have been posed the tasks of further improving the multifaceted cooperation between the Soviet Union and Laos in light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

Shevardnadze Banquet Address

BK090500 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze then made a reply speech. He said: I appreciate the fine words of the Lao saying expressed to welcome us. After hearing it, it is necessary to see, and after seeing, it is necessary to understand. We have heard about Laos, which is why we wanted to see it. Now that we have seen it, we clearly understand the fact that the peoples of our two countries are faithful friends who have maintained the same sense toward the struggle for a great victory of the socialist ideals and for peace and progress. Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev has said in this regard that our cooperation has been developed on the firm basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. This cooperation has been developed in many forms resulting from the meetings and talks between Comrade Gorbachev and Comrade Keysone Phomvihan and between our top-level leaders.

On our trip to Vientiane, we travelled a great distance. Of course we were exhausted, but our exhaustion disappeared immediately when we saw your old-age capital, known as the mother of the Mekong River. This feeling comes when among true friends, and particularly when we have been accorded a sincere welcome such as that given by our Lao friends. The feeling of hospitality has created a conducive atmosphere for working. We believe that although we will spend only a short time here, we will be able to exchange views on the details needed to meet the especially vigorous requirements in the present stage of development of our two countries.

Last year was a year of historic significance for our two peoples. It was the year in which the 27th CPSU Congress and the Fourth LPRP Congress were held. In the Soviet Union, wide attention has been paid to the top-level meeting of your party. This is because we understand that the meeting approved a significant, strategic resolution for the future of the country. The new changes in the daily life of the Lao people in your country have shown explicitly that the firm roots of socialism have gone deep in the land of the Lao nation. Your achievements in building socialism are considered as our common victory.

As you comrades know, our country also is carrying out a revolutionary reform with broad significance for our society. This project was put forth in the 27th CPSU Congress and was crystallized at the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. At present, the strategy of accelerated development of the Soviet Union in the socioeconomic field as well as in the all-round reform of the social life has been put into actual practice in all domains. The basic purpose is to extensively develop democracy in order to use it as an overall potential of socialism. I would like to note that we began to perform this task not from the basic level, but on the basis of the past achievements and victories of the Soviet people. In the year of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, we have shown through actual practice that socialism is growing and developing on its own basis and that it provides methods of settlement with higher quality than those under the democratic forms of capitalism.

We support the development of democracy in international relations with the participation of all states on the basis of equality. Regarding this, Comrade Gorbachev has stressed that we are making efforts to step up the reform of world politics. The basic purpose of the foreign policy strategy of the USSR is to maintain a nuclear-free world and a world without war and fear, and to create a good opportunity for mankind not only to survive, but to enjoy an overall security so that each nation can build a happy life.

We have done everything possible to publicize the new political views. We regard the settlement of disputes and attacks between two systems through cold war or even conventional war as unacceptable. It is necessary to reject the use of force and confrontation. This idea is appropriate for a settlement of regional problems. It is regrettable that lately the imperialist circles, first and foremost the United States, have been trying to turn the Asia-Pacific region into a region of military and political confrontation with various socialist states. The Soviet Union and other socialist states in Asia have opposed the aforesaid policy, which is aimed at worsening the situation. We have supported talks aimed at developing cooperation among various states in this part of the world on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

In Laos, we especially feel that various countries in the region want a high level of tranquillity and peace. The fierce war in the past 30 years has left behind serious scars. For this reason, the Lao people have struggled consistently to do away with the dangers threatening our common home. Together with other peace-loving forces, Laos has contributed to the struggle for a nuclear-free world and for peace without weapons in the outer space. Laos' voice has been resoundingly heard in talks among nations that support and respect our Lao friends' opinion. Your country's position regarding many complex issues of the present era has heightened Laos' prestige. The Soviet Union highly values Laos' unchanging support for initiatives aimed at ensuring a bright situation in the world and at establishing comprehensive international security covering Asia as well. This line of thinking is reflected by Laos' position toward the New Delhi statement, which is composed of principled issues that can and will be a guiding compass for various big and small Asian states along the path toward their common security.

We unite with Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia, which are trying to promote a broadened meeting with various ASEAN countries in order to turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace, friendship, stability, and cooperation. Laos' lofty opinion is that Asia' great river -- the Mekong River -- must be for bringing together, but not for keeping apart. For this reason, we accept Laos' efforts to normalize relations with China, Thailand, and other countries. In this spirit, we maintain that the firm single-mindedness of the three Indochinese states -- Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia -- will ensure their success in the next stage in building socialism and in consolidating peace in Southeast Asia as well as in Asia.

May success in this great cause belong to you. May the comrades present here as well as the Lao people enjoy peace, happiness, and prosperity.

Joint Communique

PM101616 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

["Joint Soviet-Lao Communique"]

[Text] E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, was in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] 8 through 10 March on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and the LPDR Government.

The USSR foreign minister laid a wreath at the monument to the fighters of the Lao revolution who gave their lives for the cause of national liberation.

E.A. Shevardnadze met with Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the LPRP Central Committee and chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers, and had a warm, friendly talk with him.

Talks took place between E.A. Shevardnadze and Phoun Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and foreign minister of the LPDR, on questions of bilateral relations and the present-day international situation.

During the conversations and talks, the sides noted the fruitful nature of the developing friendly ties between the CPSU and the LPRP and the Soviet Union and the LPDR and came out in favor of further widening and deepening these ties in the interests of the two countries' peoples and the cause of peace and socialism. The accords reached during meetings between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Kaysone Phomvihan are of exceptionally great significance for the further progressive development of bilateral ties on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism. The sides see it as an important topical task to implement practical measures to improve Soviet-Lao economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and increase its effectiveness.

The Lao side expressed profound gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Government, and the fraternal Soviet people for the all-around help and support to the LPDR in the struggle for national liberation and in the cause of building the foundations of socialism and defending the Lao people's revolutionary gains. The joint celebration of the noteworthy jubilee, the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, will be a new contribution to strengthening Soviet-Lao friendship and fraternal ties between the CPSU and the LPRP.

The Lao leaders spoke of the successes achieved by the country's working people in building the foundations of a socialist society and ensuring the motherland's security over the last 11 years, of the work under way in Laos to fulfill the decisions of the Fourth LPRP Congress, and of the current restructuring of the management apparatus and the economic machinery.

The USSR foreign minister reported on the CPSU's activity in consistently implementing the 27th party congress' course of restructuring and renewal of all spheres of public life. In this regard, he stressed the significance of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, which confirmed and deepened the strategic line of the congress, enriched the theoretical idea of socialism, and put forward a broad program for the further democratization of Soviet society.

An exchange of opinions which took place on topical international problems reaffirmed the fully coinciding assessments of the present state of the world situation and the causes of its dangerous exacerbation. The participants in the talks expressed concern at the continuing growth of tension in the world due to the adventurist course of the aggressive circles of imperialism, a course of achieving military superiority, kindling conflicts, and interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states. This course is incompatible with the realities of the modern world, runs counter to the vital aspirations of all peoples, and entails a mortal threat to the preservation of life itself on our planet. Through the fault of the U.S. Administration, at the Reykjavik meeting a real opportunity to reach an agreement on key disarmament problems was lost.

In the course of the talks, the Soviet Union and Laos reaffirmed their determination, together with the other socialist countries and all peace-loving forces, to wage a tireless struggle against the nuclear danger and for disarmament and the maintenance and strengthening of universal peace.

The Lao side warmly supports the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on concluding without delay a separate agreement on medium-range missiles as an important new step in the cause of implementing the comprehensive Soviet program for freeing the world from the threat of nuclear destruction. The two sides noted the great significance of the Soviet proposal both for Europe and for the Asian and Pacific region.

The Lao side expressed full support for the Leninist foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, the program elaborated by the 27th CPSU Congress for creating a comprehensive system of international security, the constructive Soviet initiatives aimed at ensuring a nuclear-free world on earth and in space, which meet the vital interests of the peoples, and the Vladivostok proposals for the normalization of the situation and the establishment of cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region.

The LPDR fully shares the provisions of the Delhi Declaration on the principles of a nonviolent world free from nuclear weapons, and notes its great significance for the development of interstate relations in the present situation.

Devoting particular attention to discussing the situation in the Asian and Pacific region, the sides expressed concern at the fact that in various parts of the Asian continent and the Pacific Ocean region tension continues to grow and attempts are being stepped up by U.S. imperialist circles and their allies to turn that extensive region of the world into another arena of military-political confrontation with the socialist states. They resolutely condemned Washington's policy of knocking together military-political blocks and closed groupings in the Asian and Pacific region and noted their concern at the stepping up of the militarist thrust in Japan's policy.

In this regard, it was stressed that the USSR and the LPDR are in favor of further stepping up collaboration among the socialist countries of Asia in developing cooperation with all states of the Asian and Pacific region, as well as the joint quest for ways of settling regional problems and strengthening peace in that part of the globe.

They are convinced that providing guarantees of a lasting and just peace in Asia and the Pacific would be an important element of the formation of an all-embracing system of international security. In order to achieve progress in this sphere it is important, in the opinion of the sides, to implement measures to prevent the buildup and proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region, turn the idea of creating nuclear-free zones into a reality, and find ways of lowering the level of ground forces and military activity, and reduce naval activity.

The talks participants confirmed their approval of the peace-loving initiatives of the MPR and DPRK, which are making a substantial contribution to efforts to improve the situation in the Asian-Pacific region.

The USSR and LPDR concur that the development of peaceful relations in Southeast Asia and the transformation of the area into a zone of peace, good-neighborliness, and cooperation meet the vital needs and fundamental interests of the peoples of the region. [paragraph continues]

The Soviet Union welcomes the foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship, and socialism conducted by the LPDR and confirmed by the Fourth LPRP Congress. This course is geared to strengthening solidarity and developing comprehensive ties with the SRV, the PRK, and the USSR and with other socialist countries, to consolidating friendship and cooperation with the states of the Nonaligned Movement, and to establishing good-neighborly relations with the countries of Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union supports the constructive initiatives of the three Indochinese countries geared to settling the problems that exist in the region by peaceful means, through talks between the two groups of states in the region. The proposals put forward at the meeting of the top leaders of the LPDR, SRV, and PRK in Vientiane and developed at the conferences of the countries' foreign ministers would be a good basis for this.

The Soviet side voices constant support for the solidarity with the peoples of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia in the matter of defending national independence and the building of socialism and in the struggle for lasting peace and security in Southeast Asia. It declared its support for the LPDR's efforts to normalize relations and develop dialogue with China as well as with Thailand and other ASEAN states, and expressed the hope that this line would encounter a vigorous and sincere reaction on the part of the interested sides.

The sides fully supported the DRA Government's constructive course aimed at settling the political situation around Afghanistan, achieving national reconciliation, and safeguarding peace and security in the country.

In the course of the Soviet-Lao talks, note was made of the Nonaligned Movement's important contribution to the struggle for mankind's salvation from the threat of nuclear catastrophe and the elimination of the remnants of colonialism, racism, and apartheid, against the imperialist policy of diktat, and for world peace and a new, just international economic order.

The participants declared their support for the struggle of the independent states and national liberation movements of Asia, Africa, and Latin America against the aggressive policy conducted by the forces of imperialism headed by the United States.

The USSR and the LPDR will contribute in every way to improving the effectiveness of UN activity, above all in safeguarding peace and universal security and organizing broad international cooperation to solve global problems. At the same time, they are resolutely opposed to attempts to use the United Nations to interfere in sovereign states' internal affairs. The Soviet Union and Laos firmly state the need to give the PRK its lawful place in the United Nations and other international organizations.

The sides expressed the belief that the results of the meetings and talks, which took place in an atmospheree of cordiality and complete unity of views on all the questions under discussion, will serve to further develop and strengthen fraternal friendship and comprehensive, close cooperation between the Soviet Union and Laos and to intensify their collaboration in the international arena.

On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government, E.A. Shevardnadze invited an LPDR party and government delegation to pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union. On behalf of the Soviet Government, E.A. Shevardnadze invited P. Sipaseut, member of the LPRP Central Committee Politburo and LPDR foreign minister, to pay an official friendly visit to the USSR. The invitations were accepted with gratitude.

BRATISLAVA PRAVDA: ZAYKOV'S PRAGUE AKTIV SPEECH

AU090601 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 5 Mar 87 pp 1, 3

["From the Speech by Comrade Lev Zaykov," member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at an "aktiv of party and economic officials of Prague and Central Bohemia" held in Prague on 4 March, on the occasion of Lev Zaykov's working visit to Czechoslovakia]

[Text In his introduction, Lev Zaykov conveyed to the participants in the aktiv sincere greetings and wishes of success from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Our visit to fraternal Czechoslovakia is a working visit, he said.

Its main purpose is to exchange experience gained from the multifaceted and wide-ranging work being done in our countries in implementing the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 17th CPCZ Congress.

Another aim of the visit is, of course, to exchange views on further intensifying of cooperation between the CPSU and the CPCZ in various fields of socialist construction.

For 3 days now, we have been acquainting ourselves with the life of your country, with its successes in the economy, in science and technology, as well as in the social sphere.

We have had meetings at the CPCZ Central Committee, visited a number of scientific institutions and enterprises in Prague, Presov, Kosice, and Brno, and have had discussions with workers, engineers, technicians, scientists, and party and economic officials.

I am not exaggerating when I say that what we have seen and heard in this short time has made a strong impression on us.

For me, as someone who spent long years working in manufacturing, it was very interesting to see the technical equipment of your enterprises and to learn about the steps you are taking to promote scientific-technical progress, to raise the quality and competitiveness of products, to raise labor productivity, and save resources.

The atmosphere of the meetings and discussions we have had so far has been exceptionally cordial, truly fraternal, and the program of our sojourn has been very useful and rich in content.

We especially are gratified to see the tremendous interest of Czechoslovak Communists and all working people in the life of the Soviet people, the activities of their Communist Party, and the course of acceleration and restructuring.

I would now like to speak about restructuring. The CPSU Central Committee April Plenum 2 years ago critically analyzed the situation in society and worked out a political line, the gist of which is the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development.

On the basis of the resolution of that Central Committee sessions, the 27th CPSU Congress worked out the concept of acceleration and mapped out the orientation toward restructuring all walks of the Soviet society's life.

After the congress, when concrete work on the implementation of its conclusions began to develop, the party's Central Committee arrived at the conclusion that the line of acceleration, restructuring, and restoring to health [ozdravenie] the entire atmosphere in the party and in the country, a line that was warmly welcomed by Communists and all working people, must be given an irreversible character.

Why did we reach such a conclusion? The fact is that even earlier, more than a few correct resolutions of a wide-ranging nature had been approved. However, the realization of these resolutions, their translation into life, into the practice of our construction, was far from secured at all times.

It was at that point that the idea was born to prepare a Central Committee plenum that would work out the theory of restructuring and lay down the tasks for cadre policy in the present stage in order to make the main force of restructuring, the people, actively join this process.

Comrades, this was our foremost intention and therein lies the enormous importance of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum.

In fact, what does restructuring mean, and what do we understand by it?

Restructuring means to vigorously overcome the phenomena and processes of stagnation. It means relying on the living and creative activity of the masses, it means a multifaceted development of democracy, support for initiative, and reinforcement of discipline and order.

Criticism and openness [verejna informovanost] are today becoming the norm of our life, as the most important forms of government by the people.

The question as we understand it is as follows: The more resolutely and consistently we assert the orientation toward democratization and restructuring, and the quicker the working people become involved in the management of social affairs, the faster the entire process of restructuring will proceed.

The CPSU is well aware of its historic responsibility for the success of restructuring because it understands very well that there is no alternative to restructuring, that we simply do not have any other option, that we must not retreat and have nowhere to retreat.

The changes in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields that we are carrying out are of a revolutionary nature; they are of fundamental importance not only for the future of our country, but for the fate of the entire socialist community.

Being senior party and economic officials, you surely realize very well, Lev Zaykov said, that preparing and staging a session of such seminal importance as the January plenum required thorough and meticulous work.

The work was very intensive and a broad circle of party, state, and economic cadres and eminent Soviet scientists took part in it.

We analyzed in great detail the situation in the national economy and the life of society as it existed on the eve of the April session.

This analysis encompassed the situation in material production and in the social sphere, in finances and price-setting, in management, foreign economic relations, economic and scientific-technical competition with capitalism, the cultural sphere, and in ideological work.

Materials were generalized on the activity of the soviets, trade unions, the Komsomol, and other social organizations.

We analyzed extensive problems in the sphere of legislation and the legal order, nationality relations, and, finally, in the life of the party itself and of party organizations.

Many consultations, meetings, and discussions devoted to cadre policy were held in central agencies and in the localities.

The fact that the session was postponed three times shows that it was prepared with great care. The date for holding the plenum was approved only after we finally succeeded in being absolutely clear about the main issues.

It must be said that this was the first time in many years that a Central Committee plenum discussed cadre policy issues from such a broad sociopolitical angle.

Another novelty in preparing the session was the fact that the participants in it were given the theses of the report in advance and thus were able to think through and consider its principles in good time. A selection of letters from Communists and working people to the party Central Committee was prepared and handed out to the participants before the session opened. It included proposals on cadre policy issues and on the democratization of the social life.

The participants in the session also were able to familiarize themselves with the draft bill on the state enterprise.

I also will reveal this -- no participant in the session was instructed to prepare a contribution to the discussion beforehand. This means that excessive organization, which had become entrenched over decades, was abandoned.

Now let me say a few words about the atmosphere in which the plenum took place. Mikhail Gorbachev delivered his 3-hour report as if in one breath, with fervor. There was a tense silence in the hall. Everyone realized the responsibility of the moment.

It was a remarkable report. We know that RUDE PRAVO and other Czechoslovak press organs published it in full and that people in the CSSR have familiarized themselves with it in detail.

A total of 77 people wished to take part in the discussion and 32 of them did speak. It is characteristic that many of them opened their contribution to the discussion with the words: "I did not intend to speak, but after hearing Mikhail Gorbachev's report I decided to express my opinion."

It was an open and free exchange of opinions. Differing views on a number of issues also were voiced, as it should be during a collective search for solutions.

But everyone agreed on the main point -- on their attitude toward restructuring, on the close linkage between restructuring and the tasks of cadre policy.

This made it possible for Mikhail Gorbachev to say in his closing speech: "It is exceptionally important for us that the session made the political statements that the party and all healthy forces of society endorse restructuring. And if this is so, then there cannot be any other way."

Being realists, we realize, of course, that restructuring is a difficult and complicated process that must not be perceived in simplified terms.

The dialectics of this process are demonstrated in the struggle of the new against the old, and all that is outdated, ossified, and that has become routine. One has to admit that so far not all people in our country have accepted the spirit of restructuring and come around to understanding its objective necessity. There are also such comrades who would like to change in the spirit of restructuring, but, for various reasons, have not yet been successful in this effort. We are working with them, involving them in the process of renewal, and teaching them to think and act in a new way.

But there also are those, although they are not many, who do not want to change. We treat them in a different way, showing no consideration for their former merits. It is in the vital interest of the people and socialism that they make way for new and fresh forces and for those for whom restructuring has become the meaning and cause of their entire life.

More than a month has elapsed since the January plenum. People have had time to think through what was said there and to clarify their own attitude to its conclusions.

We can now say with all certainty that the Soviet people have accepted the January plenum with their minds, hearts, and souls and that they fully support the program that it formulated. It is of particular value and importance to us that the working people are voicing an unequivocal demand -- not to dwell upon what has been achieved, to consistently follow the path set out by the party, and not to permit deviations from this path, not to permit any contradiction between words and actions.

At the heart of restructuring and its pillar is a general democratization of Soviet society.

We proceed from Lenin's thesis, according to which socialism and democracy are inseparable.

The main intention of the January plenum from the point of view of solving all the problems of restructuring is, in fact, the unfolding of democracy in the economy, politics, and in the party itself. It goes without saying that this must be done on a socialist foundation.

It is not a question of getting away from socialism, but a question of more socialism; not a question of getting away from democracy, but of more democracy; not a question of getting away from socialist ethics, but of fighting for them.

We see the consistent unfolding of socialist democracy as the main guarantee of making the process of restructuring an irreversible one, because as this will guarantee that past mistakes will not be repeated and that the creative potential of the people will assert itself.

Only if democratic forms, which are endemic to socialism, are consistently unfolded, will it be possible for us to advance in production, science and technology, literature, culture, and the arts, and in all areas of social life.

This is the only way to safeguard conscious discipline; it is only through democracy and because of democracy that restructuring itself is possible.

Of foremost significance is the development of democracy in the production area. That is why it is important that to realize his responsibility for the affairs of the entire collective, every employee should feel he is his own boss in production.

We want to implement in practical life Lenin's idea of socialist self-management.

The bill on the state enterprise aims toward this, the draft of which has been published and is now widely discussed in our country.

It can be said without exaggerating that this draft bill is, in fact, an expression of the new ideology of economic management. It is important to add that we do not believe that it represents the absolute truth and a completely finished document. This is exactly why we have submitted it to all people for discussion.

But the draft does provide the foundation for working out a good law on the state enterprise.

The law should change the conditions and methods of management in the basic unit of the economy from their foundations, legalize the combination of the element of planning and economic accountability [chozrascot] as well as the autonomy and responsibility in the activity of enterprises, and introduce new forms of self-management.

It provides for the direction of an enterprise primarily by economic methods, on the basis of control figures of the plan, state orders, and long-term normative rules.

The superior agency must ensure conditions for the enterprise that it runs so that it operates efficiently, and it must strictly respect its rights. Many letters and suggestions already are being received in relation to this bill, as we expected.

A commission has been set up to discuss the proposals and to select from them all that is valuable. The draft then will be submitted for approval to a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

In accordance with the bill, a labor collective is the fully-empowered master of the enterprise, dealing independently with all problems of production and social development.

On the basis of self-management, a combination is ensured of the working people's efforts and the initiative of members of work collectives in achieving a high work performance.

Socialist self-management will be enacted through the participation of the collective and its social organizations in working out the most important decisions and in checking on their fulfillment, through the election of the management, and through indivisible legal powers in the enterprise's management.

The principle of electing cadres will be applied in the case of the managerial staffs of associations, enterprises, plants, workshops, sections, farms, and subdivisions, as well as foremen and brigade leaders.

This principle is designed to contribute to improving the quality of the composition of managerial cadres and to enhancing their accountability for the results of their activity.

The fundamental issues concerning the life of a collective will be discussed and decided upon by a plenary meeting or a council of the labor collective.

This changes, in principle, the nature of the working people's participation in the management of production.

Their responsibility for the results of the activity of enterprises is being increased markedly.

The party organization as the politcal nucleus of the collective will channel the activity of the enterprise, its self-management agencies, and its trade union, Komsomol, and other social organizations, and it will check on the activity of the enterprise management.

In each concrete case, it will have to find adequate forms and methods of influencing the collective to be able to guide and orient it toward the fulfillment of truly important and pressing tasks.

We are convinced that a consistent enactment of the law on the state enterprise, together with the other steps we are taking in the economic area today, will establish a wholly new situation, accelerate the development of the national economy, and lead to a qualitative improvement of many aspects of production and public life.

The process of strengthening the elements of self-management in the production area is inseparable from the democratization of the activity of the agencies of people's power.

Elections of people's deputies to local soviets will be held in our country this June. A number of principally new elements will be applied in the process of the election campaign, which will be legalized if they acquit themselves well.

It is a question of giving the voters the opportunity to choose the truly best representatives from several candidates. For this purpose, electoral districts with several mandates will be set up on a test basis for elections to district soviets of people's deputies. In proposing candidates for deputies in these districts, the number of proposed candidates must exceed the number of mandates.

New social organizations are being set up with the aim of involving the working people more broadly and actively in the management of social affairs.

The All-Union Organization of Veterans of War and Labor, the Soviet Cultural Fund, and councils of women already have begun to operate.

The activity of the unions of creative artists -- of writers, dramatic artists, film makers, and so forth -- is being reorganized according to new principles.

With reagard to all these measures, I particularly would like to stress that this is not the case of some sort of a radical change in our political system; our main goal is to make maximum use of all the institutions of socialist democracy, to give them new content, to bring them into harmony with the tasks of acceleration and restructuring, to make room for the awareness of the people, and to assert more fully the benefits of the socialist social system, Lev Zaykov emphasized.

Moreover, the party must steer this process and set an example. After all, we cannot conceive of a situation in which the senior officials in state agencies, enterprises, institutions, and social organizations are elected in a democratic way, but in the party apparatus everything remains unchanged.

That is why it was proposed at the January plenum to work out a new method of electing secretaries of district, city, oblast, and regional party committees, and the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the union republics.

It must be said that in one district committee in the Kemerovo Oblast they did not wait for an official decision and already have elected their first secretary according to the new scheme, with two candidates running for the post. The party organization responded to this in a very positive way and the more experienced of the two comrades got elected in the end.

In the opinion of the Politburo, further democratization must also affect the formation of leading central party agencies. All these measures will find their positive expression in the strengthening of the unity and cohesion of party ranks, in raising discipline and accountability, and in strengthening the principles of democratic centralism in the life of the entire party.

I would like to stress that restructuring is growing in strength and is developing not only in breadth, but is deeply penetrating life. At the same time, however, this process is accompanied by difficulties.

This also is borne out by the analysis of the results of plan fulfillment in the 1st year of the 5-year plan that was made at the CPSU Central Commitee January Plenum.

The year 1986 saw positive changes in the national economy, whose efficiency increased.

Development accelerated in virtually all branches of social production, and a number of major branches attained the level of the 5-year plan's average annual tasks. A turn became apparent toward a more active implementation of the social policy and toward reinforcing the material base of the social and cultural areas.

Lev Zaykov went on to brief the participants on the results of the Soviet national economy and its main branches last year.

He said that, in spite of a considerable step forward that was achieved, not all the tasks of the plan are being fulfilled. There were arrears in such indicators as the production of consumer goods, the utilization of basic assets, national economic profits, and some others.

Difficulties persist with regard to supplies of food and industrial merchandise, in the activity of city transport and the local economy, in medical and cultural establishments.

There is a complicated situation with regard to the fulfillment of the retail trade turnover plan. The exclusion of alcoholic beverages from this plan has not been fully offset by increasing the sales of other types of merchandise.

However, we intend to continue to wage a tough and consistent struggle against drunkenness and alcoholism, all the more so as this struggle indirectly is yielding results already.

We registered the first decline in the accident rate since the sixties and the use of working hours improved. The overall crime rate declined almost 25 percent.

The years of the 12th 5-Year Plan, and at least the next few years, do not promise to bring easy work. We understand this an an objective law.

This is why, when solving current problems, we set ourselves the goal of making increasingly active use of the long-term factors of growth, particularly those that secure an intensive development of the national economy.

The most important part of this process is a considerable acceleration of scientific-technical progress and the fastest possible practical application of its results.

I assume that as party and economic officials you realize in your everyday activity the urgent need to come to terms with this task, which is probably equally pressing for all fraternal socialist countries today. In the solution of this task lies the key to the implementation of the programmatic directives of the congresses of our parties.

I must say that we have given the engineering complex everything our economy could afford to give. For a year or two we have suspended the construction or development of a number of enterprises of other branches. We have reorganized the management of the complex and set aside great investment resources; we simply have given it the maximum.

According to this 5-year plan, the growth of engineering production should exceed the development of all industrial production by more than 70 percent.

Let me add for the sake of comparison that in the preceding 5-year plan this edge was only 30 percent.

But growth as such is not the most important thing. The program of developing engineering is, first and foremost, a program of its incisive qualitative modernization. Almost 50 percent of basic production assets in industry, and 60 percent of their active portion, should be replaced in 5 years.

A system is being set up to monitor the world level in the development of technology and technological processes, which permits the continuous comparison of our technological standard with that of other countries, and to plan priority indicators of scientific and technical progress.

The engineering ministries have worked out scientific forecasts for the development of basic types of technology.

The proportion of major types of machinery, equipment, and instruments that are on a par with the world level should reach 85-95 percent of the production volume by 1990 and, with respect to newly developed products, this proportion should be 100 percent.

This is an enormously complicated task when we consider that at the beginning of the 5-year plan we had only 25 to 30 percent of products that were up to world standards. In a number of branches this indicator was even lower.

We know, of course, that the solution of this task, which is not at all easy, is not possible without closely linking efforts with the fraternal CEMA member-states, particularly those with an eminent engineering potential.

Czechoslovakia is undeniably one of those countries. The priority directions of our cooperation are set out in the Program of Long-Term Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation Between the USSR and the CSSR Through the Year 2000 and in the Comprehensive Program of Scientific-Technical Progress of CEMA Member-Countries Through the Year 2000.

We will do everything to ensure that the comprehensive program becomes a huge driving force of the socioeconomic development of our countries and that it results in the attainment of top standards in science and technology.

The meetings and discussions held in the course of our current visit demonstrate that you, too, show an effort to implement this collective program fully and effectively.

It is now important that the party should continuously monitor this issue in the center as well as in the localities, because it is not only of economic significance, but of great political significance. We no longer can remain in the role of those who constantly catch up with and imitate someone.

Making use of new forms of integration must play an important part in further deepening cooperation and in the joint search for methods of solving the tasks of speeding up scientific-technical progress and intensifying socialist production on that basis.

The first embryonic stages of such forms in Soviet-Czechoslovak relations exist already.

A significant step has been taken to set up direct ties of cooperation between associations and enterprises of both countries. The international robot scientific-production association has been operating for some time.

We have visited it, and I must say that the association has made a very good impression on me. These, of course, are only the first steps. There are many small unresolved issues which retard further progress. We agreed to resolve them quickly, and I think that this robot scientific-production association will be the model for the establishment of other scientific-production associations.

Thus, within the framework of our bilateral cooperation, there does not exist a single joint venture that we would regard as one of the most future-oriented forms of economic cooperation of partners from fraternal countries. Our opinion is that it is necessary to work much more actively in that respect.

To what tasks and their solution do we give priority in the sphere of scientific-technical progress?

To computerization [elekronizacia], with the development of which the future of the entire social production is indivisibly connected; to robotization and the introduction of digitally controlled machine tools and flexible production systems. Comrade Zaykov then supplied information on the development of these sectors in the Soviet Union.

He noted, for example, that an all-union program for a system of automated design for the future is being worked on. Calculations show that its realization will make it possible in 5 years to free about 280,000 designers and save about R5 billion. Increasing the reliability, durability, technical standards, and quality of industrial products is the topical national economic task today. The Central Committee and the government are devoting continued attention to the solution of this task belonging to the entire party and the whole state. We have introduced a principle, according to which an enterprise receives a 30 percent markup to the wholesale price for producing high-quality products. At the same time, economic sanctions have been imposed for producing outdated products (5-15 percent markdown from the wholesale price).

Since the beginning of this year, in 1,500 industrial enterprises state final quality control [prebierka] of products has been introduced, which uncovered considerable shortcomings in design and technological documentation, worn-out technical equipment, and the lack of equipment for control, measuring, and other functions.

On the whole, much disorder has been discovered in production. But the state final quality control also hit hard at those whose work was sloppy, but who tried to get as much as possible.

Initial results show that by introducing the state final quality control, not only technical issues are being resolved, but, above all, the relationship of people toward work is changing, people themselves are changing, they are concentrating more, and are behaving more responsibly.

The creation of organizational forms for the integration of science, technology, and production, which makes it possible to ensure an accurate and rapid translation of scientific ideas from their inception all the way to an extensive application, has become an urgent necessity today.

We are convinced that the interdepartmental scientific-technical complexes are precisely such a form.

Until now, there have been 21 complexes established in exceptionally important scientific-technical sectors, such as welding technology, powder metallurgy, robotics, membrane technology, scientific instruments, reliability of machinery, technological lasers, and so forth.

I have already said, Lev Zaykov noted, that we have started to restructure management from the bottom, from enterprises -- from the primary component of the economy.

The next stage of this work will be the restructuring of the highest levels of management, the USSR State Planning Committee, the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, the Ministry of Finance, the USSR State Bank, as well as branch ministries.

In order to make more efficient use of production capacities and increase production and the interest of workers [pracovnici] in raising labor productivity, resolutions have been approved on the introduction of new principles for the remuneration of work in material production sectors.

Momentous changes are being carried out in capital investment. Their purpose is to reduce costs and shorten construction deadlines, enhance the technical standard of branches, and improve labor productivity. We are convinced that if we want to go over to two- and three-shift work, we must do this across the board, in all branches, that is, on a territorial branch basis; otherwise there would be fluctuation.

Here he stressed the switchover of kolkhozes and sovkhozes to full economic accountability and an ever more extensive utilization of delivery contracts with brigades, squads, and families.

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes have been given the right to sell all their production that exceeds the plan and 30 percent of the planned production through consumer cooperatives, or directly on the kolkhoz market.

We resoundingly support the development of special auxiliary farms of kolkhozniks, people working in sovkhozes, and other citizens who realize production surpluses by means of agricultural enterprises, consumer cooperatives, or in kolkhoz markets.

We have changed substantially the relationship regarding cooperative ownership, whose importance has been underestimated until recently. We have approved a resolution on considerably expanding cooperative forms in the production of consumer goods, in trade, and in services as a complement to the state forms of activity in these spheres.

A law on individual labor activity will go into effect on 1 May.

We have to say straight out that quite a few problems are cropping up here. When one resolves the issues of a material and organizational nature, one also has to overcome psychological barriers and inertia in thinking.

One of the important tasks related to the perfection of management is to ensure the correct unification of territorial and branch interests.

In principle, I would like to point out that the ongoing comprehensive reform of economic management concerns fundamental questions on how the socialist system of management functions and on many aspects of political and social life, of the style and methods of our work.

Precisely for this reason it has been decided to discuss the whole range of these problems at the next session of the party Central Committee. Preparation for it has begun already. What is involved is setting up a unified and composite system of economic management, which corresponds to the current stage of development of the Soviet economy.

Also the next -- the 13th 5-Year Plan -- will be drafted on the basis of the new economic mechanisms.

Comrades, strong social policy is the organic component of the strategy of acceleration. That is obvious. Our successes in that sphere are considerable. Even our opponents would be hard put to cast doubt on them.

There is a proverb: Better is the enemy of good. We see and we do not hide the fact that quite a few serious problems have accumulated in the social sphere.

The insufficient attention paid to social issues has become one of the reasons for the lag in scientific-technical progress and in the growth of production's effectiveness. This is the obstacle to using the existing potential.

Therefore, we are strengthening the social orientation of our plans to be able as rapidly as possible to overcome the discrepancy that has evolved between the standard of development in the production sphere and the social infrastructure.

We realize that everything that is being done now could remain hanging in the air if it is not supported by the people's interest [interesovanost] -- material and moral -- in the result of their personal work, of the work of a collective, and in the country's prosperity.

Here we want to solve two key problems.

First, we want, once and for all, to abandon egalitarianism in any form.

Second, we want to make full use of the socialist principle of distribution "from everyone according to his abilities, to everyone according to his work.

In our country, there lately have been cropping up issues regarding unearned incomes, undeserved wages, and unjustified bonuses, which are undermining the principle of social justice. Our opinion is that the struggle against these abuses has not been waged with sufficient energy to date.

The party demands that this struggle be stepped up and that -- once and for all -- the backdoor be closed on those who try to live off others, off the state.

But we also must not forget the reverse side of social justice, I mean those who wish to earn more to live better, and honestly could do so.

Our standpoint is -- give them a chance.

This is logical and just. Outstanding work must have nothing in common with equalization in distribution and consumption.

We will not achieve a fundamental turnaround in the growth of labor productivity with egalitarianism.

The principles of distribution according to work done cannot be restricted to wages alone, of course.

Their impact is far more extensive. It must include the distribution of social consumption funds that equalize the material situation of people and create for everyone equal conditions for the realization of fundamental rights, such as the right to education, medical assistance, and social security.

Issues of social policy were discussed comprehensively at the 18th congress of Soviet trade unions last week.

Trade union organizations were entrusted with the task of striving to strengthen the social orientation of the approved economic decisions.

At the congress, Mikhail Gorbachev stressed in this speech that the new role of trade unions under the conditions of restructuring is that they would become a sort of counterweight to technocratic efforts in the economy.

I must say that the atmosphere of the January plenum reflected clearly in the results of the trade union congress and in its entire course, as well as in the mood of the people.

As at the plenary session of the CPSU Central Committee, there was not a list of participants in the discussion, of scheduled [pripraveny] speakers, prepared in advance.

The comrades from the Czechoslovak delegation probably have told you that the participants in the congress sharply and critically spoke about our shortcomings and ways to overcome them. Criticism was healthy and frank.

But I will tell you straight out that not a single discussion speech contained petty criticism or demagoguery.

Comrade Zaykov further spoke about solving the housing problem in the Soviet Union. He also devoted himself to environmental protection issues, to which increased attention is being paid. This requires immense expenditure, but we have no other choice because we are responsible for the preservation of the environment not only to the present but to future generations.

In the next part of his speech, he stressed the task of fundamental restructuring of foreign-political relations, which is being carried out under the systematic control of the Central Committee in accordance with the directives of the 27th party congress.

It is understandable that such momentous changes require an organic combination of courage, unconventional approaches, and realism, and require us not to run ahead of ourselves in the implementation of practical steps.

To date, we have given 20 ministries and sectors and about 70 enterprises the right to direct access to the foreign market.

In the area of foreign-economic relations, they will act in accordance with the principles of economic accountability and foreign current profitability.

Regarding the organizational aspect of the matter, we have succeeded in making considerable progress.

The setting up of foreign trade associations and companies in ministries and enterprises has entered the final stage.

Industry has been isolated from the world market until now. Now it has to force [vybojovat] its way into this market and to establish a firm position on it.

To do this, it is necessary to fundamentally improve the quality and the competitiveness of our products and to bring about a change in people's thinking.

The training of cadres for foreign trade has begun in a big way.

We are not just training experts, but also ministers, their deputies, and enterprise directors.

The need to accelerate the socioeconomic development of the fraternal socialist countries in itself brings qualitatively new tasks with regard to cooperation among them.

In accordance with the agreements that were made at the meeting of leading representatives of our parties in Moscow last November, we are actively preparing proposals for restructuring the mechanism of socialist economic integration and CEMA activity.

As you know, these proposals will be discussed at the next CEMA session this summer.

It is possibe to note with satisfaction that the positions of both our countries on the fundamental issues of the perfection of cooperation within the CEMA framework are identical.

We proceed from the fact that the main purpose of the restructuring of CEMA's activity is to shift the centerpiece of integration to the level of enterprises and create the necessary condition for comprehensively deepening specialization and cooperation of production.

The collective concept of the international socialist division of labor now on the drawing board is to determine the most efficient way and methods for combining the fraternal countries' efforts in the most important directions of intensification of social production and to equip us all with a concrete program for action.

The truly revolutionary changes that have begun to be implemented in the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries are of immense importance not only for world socialism, but for the fate of the whole world.

The restructuring, which we have started with such enthusiasm and which is irreversible, shows everyone the direction in which we want to orient all our resources. It shows what our thoughts are concentrated on, what our real programs and plans are, what we are prepared to apply our society's intellectual energy to, and what competition we are challenging the capitalist system to.

However, to provide this competition with a civilized form worthy of 21st century mankind, there must be a new way of thinking in international relations, too. In this regard, Lev Zaykov recalled the momentous Soviet peace proposals.

Today, no one any longer denies the pernicious consequences of a nuclear war catastrophe, said Lev Zaykov. However, the nuclear century also has brought additional problems that show that it is not only nuclear war that would be seriously harmful to mankind. This is attested to by the lesson of Chernobyl.

For example, the nuclear power plants in the West European countries have a capacity of 70 million kw. Even a nonnuclear attack on them could result in Europe's becoming uninhabitable.

From the mutual dependence of states and nations for their survival arises the need for a qualitatively new approach to the issue of national security, which also is one of the typical features of the new political thinking.

Mikhail Gorbachev's speech at the Moscow international forum, For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity, explained the fundamental aspects of the new philosophy of international relations.

We regard the holding of this forum as a success for our foreign policy of peace, as a success for the coordinated line of the fraternal socialist countries.

Our principled position is that the equilibrium of forces must be ensured at the level of reasonable adequacy of armament with a continuing tendency to reduce its volume.

As you know, the Soviet Union, in close coordination with our friends from the socialist countries, has proposed concrete solutions for the problems facing the world.

The Soviet-American meeting in Reykjavik has shown that this program is not a utopia, and that a realistic solution can be found. Therefore, we are saying today that Reykjavik was a sort of turning point, the moment of truth, when an exceptional prospect of transition to a world without nuclear weapons appeared.

At the same time, real obstacles on that road were exposed.

As you know, the main obstacle is the effort of the United States to transfer the feverish arms buildup to space, gain strategic superiority, and dictate its will to the world.

On 26 February, after 1 and 1/2 years of unilateral moratorium, a nuclear explosion was carried out in the Soviet Union.

It was a measure forced upon the USSR, by which it responded to the continuing nuclear tests in the United States. We will continue to strive to halt nuclear explosions, and we are prepared to return to the moratorium if the Americans also will declare one.

The Soviet Union, which, despite all the difficulties and artificial obstacles, is striving to resolve the problem of nuclear disarmament, took another significant step in this respect on 1 March.

The statement by Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, proposes that the issue of intermediate-range missiles in Europe be taken out of the entire block of issues involved in the Soviet-American negotiations and a special agreement be concluded on them. At the same time, this must be done immediately, for an agreement on this actually already exists.

After it is signed, Lev Zaykov stressed, we will begin the withdrawal from the CSSR and the GDR of the complexes of operational-tactical designation with enhanced range, which are there as a response to the deployment of American Pershing-2 missiles, and we express our readiness to start talks immediately with the objective of reducing and scrapping further missiles of operational-tactical designation.

This opens up a broad path to a real and momentous step: the complete removal of nuclear weapons from Europe. The U.S. Government now must prove with practical deeds its proclaimed readinesss for this agreement.

With regard to Europe's importance in international relations, he said that from Helsinki, where the foundation of these relations was laid, the European countries had arrived at the Vienna meeting.

We note with satisfaction that precisely the European states are submitting momentous and far-reaching proposals, whose aim is to make Europe a continent of peace in wich there would be no nuclear weapons, where the number of conventional weapons would be reduced considerably, where economic cooperation would be eleveated to a new level, and from where a strong stimulus for cooperation in humanitarian affairs would originate.

You undoubtedly are well acquainted with the joint Budapest initiative of the Warsaw Pact countries, which proposes an extensive reduction of the number of armed forces in Europe, with regard to which the first contacts with the NATO countries now have begun.

We support the proposals of Czechoslovakia and the other socialist countries to convene an all-European economic forum; we propose that a conference on all aspects of humanitarian problems be held in Moscow.

Our countries have begun preparations for the next stage of discussing an important step in the UN aimed at achieving a fundamental change in international relations, at setting up a comprehensive system of international security.

In submitting this program, we are naturally not counting on intergovernmental relations alone.

In the closing part of his speech, Lev Zaykov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said that on his return home he would be able to inform the CPSU Central Committee about the successful course of his visit in the spirit of unity of views and full mutual understanding, which are traditional regarding our meetings with the Czechoslovak comrades.

We note with satisfaction that these meetings and regular contracts between representatives of the CPSU Central Committees and the CPCZ are always useful and make it possible for us, as the saying goes, to synchronize our watches and sincerely and frankly share our problems as well as plans for the future.

He also valued the fact that on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October, many collectives in the CSSR have pledged to fulfill deliveries of their products to the USSR on time and with high quality. In this we see the display of true internationalism in the spirit of the slogan of Klement Gottwald, the great son of the Czechoslovak people: "With the Soviet Union forever and never in any other way!"

We all must ensure that this year becomes a year of stable work in the national economy and a year of great successes in the acceleration of the socioeconomic development of our countries for the benefit of strengthening the positions of world socialism and peace, said Lev Zaykov.

PRAVDA VIEWS CURRENT LEBANESE POLITICAL CLIMATE

PM101447 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Yu. Glukhov dispatch: "Lebanon: Hard Times"]

[Text] Beirut, 6 Mar -- The residents of Beirut are again pulling barricades down. This time with Syrian help. Bulldozers, cranes, and dump trucks are busy leveling earthworks, clearing concrete blocks away, pulling antitank obstacles down, and clearing ruins.

February was a period of tension in the capital's Western sector. The battles fought between opposing groupings resulted in about 200 persons killed and more than 400 injured, mainly from among the civilian population.

Syrian units, already stationed in Lebanon as part of the inter-Arab peacekeeping forces, entered West Beirut at the request of Husayn al-Husayni, president of Lebanon's parliament, and Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Together with the Lebanese Army and police, they undertook to restore order and to guarantee security. I think that human and material losses would have been significantly greater had it not been for the help from Damascus.

The overheated passions are gradually cooling down. The security measures were radical, and thus led to a noticeable imrpovement of the situation at the present stage. The headquarters, barracks, strongholds, and posts of all military-political organizations and groupings have been closed down, their gunmen have disappeared from the streets, and weapons and ammunition discovered in homes and cellars that had been turned into dumps are being transported away. Key highways and installations are now under guard, including state institutions, banks, the international airport, and embassies.

The twists of events in Lebanon, especially the dramas of the latest clashes or the capture of hostages, at times overshadow the key point and prime cause of the Lebanese crisis -- its direct link with the Near East conflict and the hegemonistic intrigues by the United States and Israel. It is sufficient to name just one complex problem engendered by this conflict and affecting Lebanon -- the presence on its territory of 100,000 Palestinians who escaped from the Israeli aggressors and found refuge here. All this must be constantly born in mind for a comprehensive and correct perception of the picture.

For almost 5 years now Lebanon has been the target of aggressive schemes. The continuing Israeli occupation of the country's south, and the U.S. 6th Fleet whose presence hangs like a storm cloud over the Lebanese shores, are the realities of today. And the Israeli siege and shelling of Beirut in 1982, the invasion by the interventionist "mutinational forces," the slaughter in Sabra and Shatila, and the shelling of Lebanese cities and villages by U.S. warships are still alive in the memory of the Lebanese. This chain of agonizing acts of gross interference and trampling of national dignity stretches back into the past. They also include, for example, Israel's intervention in 1978 and the landing of U.S. Marines in Beirut in 1958.

In fact, for several decades now the Zionist-imperialist sledgehammer has been striking a country whose population is just over 3 million. [paragraph continues]

These constant blows could not have failed to shatter Lebanon's already vulnerable state and social structure and disrupt the unstable equilibrium in a country which has about two dozen sociopolitical organizations and where the need for serious democratic reforms has been pressing for a long time.

"We must not split into first-, second-, and third-class citizens," I was told by a Lebanese acquaintance. He is a Druze, and many rungs on the state ladder are inaccessible to him. No matter how good he may be, he can never be a candidate for the office of president or president of parliament, nor can he become prime minister. These positions are firmly in the domain of other communities and, moreover, the Lebanese Muslims are more discriminated against than the Christians. Even though Muslims now constitute the majority of the population, the prevailing system of state structure, based on the religious-community principle (and dubbed confessional), works to the Christians' advantage. Pervading the entire society, this archaic and obsolete system which was established several decades ago creates artificial obstacles and generates antagonism.

Dominant positions in the state, the Army, and the economy are traditionally held by part of the Christian Maronite bourgeoisie, whose interests are reflected by the right-wing parties al-Kata'ib (Phalangist), the National Liberal Party, and the "Guardians of the Cedar." Their unwillingness to forego their privileges and their opposition to changes have resulted in the evolution of Lebanon's domestic political crisis into a chronic state of civil war, which has in fact already lasted 12 years. The camp of right-wing parties is opposed by national-patriotic forces with a diverse structure -- the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], the Lebanese Communist Party [LCP], the Amal Shi'ite movement, and a number of other organizations.

I am convinced that, despite all the difficulties, a formula for national accord in Lebanon would have been found a long time ago had it not been for imperialist interference. It is aimed at fanning internecine strife and separatist tendencies, at splitting the country. The United States and Israel constantly provoke not only inter-Lebanese, but also Lebanese-Palestinian and Lebanese-Syrian disagreements. Attempts were made to push through a Lebanese variation of a separate deal with Israel in the Camp David mold. All this has had and still has a highly negative effect on the situation in the country.

Political life was militarized to the detriment of democratic norms. Having rallied their armed formations soon after the onset of the civil war, the right-wing Christian parties created the so-called "Lebanese Forces." These "forces" in fact set themselves in opposition to the central government, imposed their control over life in Beirut's eastern zone and suburbs, and turned into a serious threat to opponents even among the Maronites.

Under these circumstances, virtually all the remaining political organizations also turned into military-political groupings. The PSP, the LCP, the Shi'ite Amal movement, the pro-Iranian Hizballah religious party, and a number of other parties, as well as the Palestinians, all have their own armed detachments. In February 1984 detachments of national-patriotic forces established control over West Beirut. Part of the Lebanese Army disintegrated, while its core took a stance of neutrality.

An attempt was made with Syrian help at the end of December 1985 to reach national reconciliation on the basis of accord between the three largest military-political groupings -- the PSP, the Amal movement, and the "Lebanese Forces" (the latter displayed readiness for this under Hubayqah, their leader at the time). But the Damascus agreement weas wrecked by the opposition of the influential Maronite bourgeoisie and the mutiny within the "Lebanese Forces."

The wrecking of this agreement, backed by the Muslim communities, resulted in a most acute domestic political crisis. The government's activity has been paralyzed for months on end. Some ministers are boycotting the president. Crisis phenomena have also affected the camp of national-patriotic forces.

"The entry of Syrian units was almost like an essential surgical operation," Marwan Hamadah, eminent Lebanese political figure, said. "The situation in West Beirut was like a festering wound threatening not only the Lebanese capital. There were increasingly deep differences between the allies -- those who wrecked the 17 May 1983 capitulationist agreement imposed by Israel and the United States, who achieved the withdrawal of the 'multinational forces,' the partial withdrawal of Israeli troops, and the defeat of local collaborationists.

"The breach between Amal on the one hand and the PSP and the LCP on the other hand," my interlocutor went on, "developed in particular as regards the Palestinians and their position and role in the struggle by Lebanese national-patriotic forces against Israeli aggression. The split within the Palestinian movement itself only aggravated the situation. It must also be admitted that various organizations -- apart from the LCP, perhaps -- have started putting on confessional colors. But, under Lebanese conditions, what could be the outcome of stepped up fundamentalist Islamic trends like, for example, the promotion of the slogan for an 'Islamic state?' Only to provoke a slogan for 'Christian state' and intensify separatist trends.

"Another negative aspect," M. Hamadah noted, "is the fact that the various armed groupings have not succeeded in cutting off the amorphous and at times classless elements. A situation of chaos and anarchy has developed."

The entry of Syrian troops became a catalyst of the healing process. Prerequisites are being created for the resumption of national dialogue. Prospects have emerged for restoring the alliance of national-progressive forces and for consolidating their ties with Syria on the basis of common goals in the struggle against Israeli aggression and the intrigues by imperialism. This is how the situation is appraised by the LCP and the PSP, which acclaimed the help from Damascus in their declarations.

The process of normalization has more than enough adversaries, both inside the country and beyond its borders. But it is on normalization that the broad masses place their hopes. After all, opportunities have developed to step up the struggle for Lebanon's unity, integrity, and sovereignty. And they must not be missed.

DISSIDENT ALTUNIAN RELEASED FROM KHARKOV PRISON

AU100922 Paris AFP in English 0916 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 10 (AFP) -- Soviet dissident Genrikh Altunian was freed from jail in the Ukrainian town of Kharkov and returned to his home Monday evening, his family announced Tuesday.

The dissident, who started a hunger strike on March 2 to demand his release, was "not feeling too bad", his son Sergey, said. Mr. Altunian's wife, Rima, said her husband had been freed Monday between 7 and 8 p.m., local time, in Kharkov.

"He was the only one" freed, she added, stressing that her husband "did not sign any documents and only handed in a text saying that he did not feel guilty and that the detention of political prisoners is incompatible with the current policies" of the Kremlin.

Mr. Altunian was sentenced in 1981 to seven years' detention to be followed by five years' internal exile for "agitation and anti-Soviet propaganda". In January, he was transferred from a camp in the central Soviet Union to the prison at Kharkov.

Soviet authorities had charged Mr. Altunian with the dissemination of Alexander Solzenitsyn's work, "The Gulag Archipelago", as well as several issues of an underground dissident publication, "Chronicle of Current Events".

Meanwhile, the wife of another dissident, Sergey Khodorovich, said that her husband was still being held Tuesday in a labor camp in Siberia.

Mrs. Tatyana Khodorovich added thast her husband had been told by authorities Monday that he would have to wait for another two days before being released.

In January, Soviet authorities told Mr. Khodorovich they were prepared to free him if he requested to emigrate to Israel and if he asked for a pardon. According to his wife, the dissident then asked to be freed but did not request a pardon.

According to official Soviet statements, some 150 prisoners of conscience have recently been pardoned.

The freeing of about 100 of these has been confirmed by dissident sources.

VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA PONDERS REFUSNIK FASTS

LD092111 Moscow TASS in English 2049 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 9 TASS -- The newspaper VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA carries today under the headline "Fasting to Special Order" an interview with two Soviet families, who were denied their request for emmigration from the USSR because of their knowledge of information concerning this country's security interests. The correspondents of the newspaper visited at home Inessa Ioffe and Yudif Ratner, who decided to hold a three-day fasting in protest against the denial to them of permission to emigrate to Israel.

The articles pointed out that the visit of the Soviet newsmen was not expected in either family and first they were taken for "wrong people." "We expected the press to visit us tomorrow," Inessa Ioffe said. Both families were unanimously trying to convince the correspondents that that three-day fasting was intended to attract public attention to them and such people as they are.

In answer to the question how they succeed in so speedily notifying all they are are expecting tomorrow, both families gave exactly the same answers: "It is all very simple. We do it through Israel. We inform our kinsfolk and acquaintances, and the latter then notify the people concerned."

The meetings in both families differed from one another very little, the article says. "Indeed, we do not wish to suspect the people we talked to, but the arguments they furnished struck us as having been approved by someone in advance and expressed, most likely, more than once or twice. One could not help asking the question: Who had directed that well-thought of performance? Why and who needs it? The fasting farce makes one think that the command for the three-day action and the noisy reports of the "Voice of Israel", "Radio liberty", and their likes was given from one of the headquarters.

VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA said that a three-day hunger strike was started on March 8 also by M. Balashinskaya, I. Romanovskaya, I. Steingardt, E. Shraer, V. Ivanovskaya, F. Astrova, R. Yakir, I. Gurvich and some others. All the above-mentioned women (or their husbands) have really been denied their request for emigration from the USSR for permanent residence abroad. For the time being. And only because of their being informed of state and military secrets, the newspaper says.

The newspaper reminds those "who are trying to use high-flown talk about human rights, about democratic liberties, pursue, in real fact, no other aim but that of earning private political capital," that new times have come. "And they advocating human rights are unhappy to see how those wishing to go are allowed to do so without procrastination. And also how those who have seen enough of the 'paradise' in foreign lands are returning home." "Who needs, who ordered the three-day show fasting, which the voices notorious for their rabid anti-Sovietism so zealously and willingly began advertising long before it even started? But they are all known, they are opponents of trust and enemies of detente," the article says.

NOVOSTI COMMENTATOR EXPLAINS 'GLASNOST'

AU091213 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 27 Feb 87 p 6

[Article by Spartak Beglov, NOVOSTI political commentator: "Openness in the USSR and Beyond Its Borders; Open, Honest Dialogue"]

[Text] In the Soviet Union a draft press bill is being prepared and it will be submitted to the entire population for assessment. It will not merely enshrine the right to information. It anticipates accurate norms to regulate relations between the press and other social institutions, the purpose of which is to ensure that real measures are taken on the basis of press articles, and to provide journalists with the guarantee that they will not be persecuted for criticism -- for justified criticism, of course. On the other hand, individual citizens and institutes must be protected against irresponsible accusations.

The editorial office of the Soviet PRAVDA has been receiving almost 2,000 letters per day from its readers. On the basis of these letters questions are compiled about relevant institutions, and on the basis of the sharpest and most urgent signals PRAVDA dispatches coorespondents or special journalistic brigades to the places in question. In PRAVDA, almost the half of the materials of the editorial office's socioeconomic department are based on readers' letters.

Ranking personnel at all levels are reading their morning mail very thoroughly and some of them are even opening the new issues of the central and local newspapers with trepidation. The sharp criticism resounding from the pages of the press, the radio, and the television and the questions put to ministers and secretaries of party committees, directors of enterprises, and executive committees of soviets do not let them live in a carefree and complacent atmosphere any longer.

In enterprises and institutions certain days are set aside for ranking personnel to submit reports to their collectives and answer questions asked by rank-and-file employees. The CPSU Central Committee general secretary and party representatives of individual republics pay visits to large industrial centers and agricultural districts not only to acquaint themselves with life in the cities and to speak from a rostrum, but also to chat with the man on the street. Of course, the generator of this open and critical self-analysis is the party and its leadership, as was clearly shown by the 27th party congress and the latest session of its Central Committee.

This is openness [verejna informovanost] in its main forms. It is an integral part of restructuring. Nowadays, these two words, as well as the word acceleration, can frequently be heard not only in the USSR but also beyond its borders. They have become a sort of code word for this extensive process of renewal of the country's entire policy and life, which is the eyes of many is a revolutionary process. Like many words that have come into being in the process of the immense changes in the USSR in the past 70 years the word "glasnost' has no precise equivalent in some languages. In some cases it is translated as "openness," in others as "making public" ["zverejnovanie"]. Both are partly correct, but uniting the process of renewal with democracy constitutes the main purpose. What this means is that society as well as each of its members is able — as Lenin used to say — assess everything in an informed manner, and contribute to the common tasks accordingly.

This process also contains many complications, because it is not possible to make room for those who are only interested in denigrating everyone and everything. The following question, too, can frequently be heard: Do the ill-wishers beyond our borders not profit from our purifying self-criticism?

After all, one can never satisfy one's enemies. The Soviet people are much more perturbed by the question whether the West is capable of responding with the same measure of openness when it comes to resolving topical global problems, for example the problem of disarmament and cooperation in the name of survival, responding with the same measure of openness and realism as resounds in the Soviet proposals aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of this century, responding with the same measure of consistency as that with which Mikhail Gorbachev strove to clear the path for the realization of this plan at the meeting in Reykjavik, with the same measure of truthfulness and sincerity as would provide a guarantee against dishonest play, against using an unequal yardstick.

In Reykjavik we proposed that the agreement on antimissile defense oriented toward preventing the militarization of space be strengthened. For the sake of appearances they agreed with us, but in reality they immediately started with their plans for the overly hasty "stage-by-stage" realization of the "Star Wars" program. [paragraph continues]

Therefore no one should be surprised that the Soviet public's trust in the U.S. leadership has dropped below the freezing point.

After the jamming [rusenie] of the BBC programs in Russian was stopped, its representatives immediately ran scared: Is there no danger that the Soviet listeners' interest in these programs will cool off? If I were a Western politician or the mass information media, I would ponder something else: Is it not precisely they who are misusing the openness of our society, and also concealing the truth about the Soviet Union from their own public?

Our openness in international affairs is the proposal to begin an open and honest dialogue. There is only one truth: One has to learn to live together and survive together, abandon the idea of achieving security for oneself to the detriment of the security of others.

MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI EDITOR ON EDITORIAL POLICY

LD091256 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2030 GMT 7 May 87

[From the "You've Already Met Them" program, presented by Political Observer Vladimir Molchanov]

[Text] [Molchanov] From the fashions and the beautiful clothes of Aenne Burda we turn to problems that are no less serious. Visiting us tonight is Yegor Yakovlev, editor in chief of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI and a well-known Soviet journalist. You came to the paper about 6 months ago, and each time, with each issue, we see that the newspaper is changing. What is the essence of the newspaper's editorial policy?

[Yakovlev] I think the newspaper is changing in exactly the same way that the Soviet press has been changing recently. We are all witnesses of this and take pleasure in it. If I am to speak of editorial policy, we are trying to make the newspaper into a sharply expressed political weekly. This does not mean to say that every article has to deal with political affairs, but every article must have a very firm direction, a very firm task: hence the concentration of ideas, the concentration of information. We do this from three standpoints, I would say. Our first standpoint is that this is a newspaper for which there are no forbidden topics. It writes about everything it considers necessary. It informs its readers both at home and abroad about everything it considers important.

The second standpoint is that this is a newspaper for building bridges. Just as television does with its television bridges, we would like to have similar bridges in the press. We would like to help people to understand each other, to bring people together from different continents. We therefore carry quite widely the positions of our political opponents. Naturally we reply to them, but we present both sides, to an equal extent, we believe, so that people can reach their own conclusions about many things.

Finally, the third standpoint is that this newspaper writes about the Soviet way of life. What one understands by the Soviet way of life is another question. Today, of course, we see this not in traditional craft work and toys and dolls but in the critical state of public thinking which has been characteristic of us since the 27th congress and the January plenum. Conveying the state of public thinking in the Soviet Union today is our main task.

[Molchanov] In each edition you publish a lot of vivid and I would say nonstandard items describing positive examples of our restructuring.

At the same time, in each issue there appear sharp critical commentaries or interviews the publication of which, even 2 years ago, would have been unlikely, I think. In this connection I am interested in your view of the problem of criticism under the conditions of restructuring. Do there exist limits as to what is reasonable in terms of criticism and are such limits necessary?

[Yakovlev] First of all, that is right; 2 years ago it would have appeared to be impossible. Not long ago we published material called a documentary quest, which a year ago would have been unheard of. We simply looked at the changes that have taken place in our life following the 27th congress and they appeared fantastical when viewed a year later.

As far as criticism is concerned, this is one of the most difficult questions for us professional journalists today. In 30 years' work in the press I have never in my life had occasion to work in a period like the one we are experiencing now. I think that the special nature of this period amounts to this: Today every journalist, and especially every editor, chooses his own limit as to what is possible according to his own party conscience and his conscience as a citizen. He chooses his own mark to aim for. This is a very interesting period in the life of journalism.

Generally speaking, I share the position that was once expressed by someone who said that freedom of the press is directly proportional to the level of the professional training of journalists. Today -- when such great opportunities have been opened up -- I do not think that we are doing all we can in our professional training. We are not making full use of the opportunities we have been granted by the time and by the 27th congress. As far as criticism itself is concerned, one has to ask what its purpose is. I think that today when we publish criticial items these are needed primarily in order to show how tendencies -- present-day, progressive tendencies -- are bent by the negative tendencies that remain from times past. I do not see any other point in criticism.

[Molchanov] Thank you, Yegor Vladimirovich. Our program is devoted to information and music and every interview or conversation is interrupted by a musicial item. [musical interlude] Here we are once again in our studio. My last question to you, Yegor Vladimirovich, is this: In a recent issue of MOSKOVSKIY NOVOSTI, a letter was published from someone who has been a member of the CPSU since 1939 who almost accused your newspaper of having taken an anti-Soviet course. Please tell us honestly: Do you not equate those who are opposed to your newspaper with those who are today opposing restructuring, either blatantly or secretly?

[Yakovlev] Please tell us honestly: We have grown accustomed in past years to the fact that it is often possible for people not to speak honestly. I understand what it is about, and yes, of course; yes, without a doubt. Only here I think the real issue is about something else. Someone wrote us a letter and we replied to that person -- I do not know him, I would like to meet him, but I do not see this as being possible because it was a letter without an address -- and he said that he does not accept restructuring. It is very important, and what is more, he looked upon us, upon the newspaper, as though we were directly his enemies.

I think that today it is very important for us not to look upon him as though he were our enemy.

Understand what this is about. We have to look upon him as soneone who is accustomed to the former way of life, the old way of thinking, who finds it very difficult to part with his experiences of years past, the things he has seen, the mistakes he perhaps has made. Therefore, it is more important today not to accuse that person, not to keep on at him, but somehow to help him and understand him. There is great danger here, you know. We all want democracy, but as soon as we see some current running in the opposite direction we immediately want to block it off. So, in putting forward democracy we may turn out to be the enemies of democracy. We are all in favor of openness, but if concealed in this openness there is some opinion that I don't like, then we oppose that opinion, and when that happens it is very easy to become enemies of openness. This is a period when we have to understand very simply that democracy is not a one-way street, but a street with traffic in both directions. Openness is not just the view that you like, but the view that you might not like. It is a very big process concerning our entire culture, our political culture, which we have to study as we train ourselves.

[Molchanov] Thank you, Yegor Vladimirovich.

MINISTRIES URGED TO LEAD RESTRUCTURING

PM091605 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Sectorial Staff: Ministries and Departments Must Set an Example in Restructuring"]

[Text] A major test of maturity -- the ability to efficiently develop and improve production and to work with a high return -- is now being faced by all Soviet people following the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum. Restructuring, the plenum said, is no stroll along a smooth road. It is like climbing a mountain, often along untrodden paths, and we are only just beginning that path.

Tremendous responsibility for carrying out the party's strategic course of accelerating socioeconomic development rests on economic cadres and, above all, on workers of sectorial ministries and planning, financial, and other economic organs. It is workers in the economic management sphere who are called on to set an example in the restructuring of their work and the style of leadership in the light of the tasks set by the new management conditions and the broad move to self-recoupment and self-financing.

Since the 27th party congress the staffs of advanced sectors have begun to pay more attention to questions of accelerating scientific and technical progress, the modernization of enterprises, and the transfer to the production of output which meets current and long-term requirements. As a rule, energetic specialists who want to organize work in the new way have entered the leadership of many sectors. The transfer from administrative to economic methods of management is being carried out in the country. Enterprise leaders are being granted extensive rights not only to carry out current tasks but also to realize long-term goals. This gives them a better chance to show their ability and make fuller use of internal economic reserves.

The paramount duty of ministry and department workers is to create favorable conditions for economic resourcefulness, initiative, and enterprise to be shown at the local level. Sectorial ministries, above all those whose enterprises switched from the beginning of this year to self-financing and full financial autonomy, have carried out considerable organizational and economic work to enable labor collectives in the new management conditions to achieve even-paced, high-quality, profitable work and accelerate the development of production.

For example, the USSR Ministry of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry is carrying out a number of measures to reduce the number of unprofitable enterprises in the sector. The work of financial autonomy here is based on profit and the increasing of new output. This has given labor collectives a greater interest in processing raw materials more thoroughly and an interest in saving resources and has made the wages fund more dependent on increased labor productivity and improved output quality. Consequently, favorable conditions have been created for the transfer to self-recoupment and self-financing.

At the same time some economic leadership organs, both centrally and locally, as M.S. Gorbachev noted in his speech to the 18th trade union congress, have not managed to organize work in the conditions of increased demands on the activity of enterprises and associations during the transfer to new management methods. Positive changes still have not become an established trend -- particularly in the metallurgical, chemical, and electronic industries.

One of the key tasks of each sectorial staff is to ensure the planned and rapid development of production on the basis of the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. Nevertheless, a number of ministries still are not making full use of the potential of sectorial science. It is still not having the due influence on increasing the production of competitive output, reducing the proportion of manual labor, and increasing profit. The schedule-order system [sistema naryad-zakaz] in institutes has resulted in the main in the inclusion of petty questions in their plans while major sectorial problems are often left unresolved. For example, science is giving poor assistance to petroleum workers in increasing the recovery of oil from strata at a time when a considerable proportion of the raw material reserves remains underground when the working of deposits has been completed.

The time taken to complete scientific research is increasing and the introduction of the results of completed work is intolerably slow. For instance, a turbodrill developed at the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Drilling Techniques and corresponding to world standards, successfully underwent state tests back in 1980 and received approval for introduction in industry. However, the mass production of these drills is not even planned yet. What was the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry doing when the plan for the development of science and technology was just 72.7 percent fulfilled last year?

The success of work at the local level depends on the scientific validation of plan targets and the solution of long-term questions of the development of subsectors, associations, and trusts, but that is not how work is organized everywhere. At the USSR Ministry of Construction of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprises, for example, about one-third of the trusts regularly fail to meet the plans although on the whole the ministry fulfills them successfully. What is the reason for this paradox? It is primarily defects in planning. Work is being held up by material and technical supply shortcomings and the inability of some leaders to organize work efficiently.

One task facing ministries is to disseminate the best experience more quickly. But why, for instance, has the experience of the Ivanovo Machine Building Association, which has been well known for many years now, not been properly disseminated to other enterprises of the Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry? Why does it take less than 5 hours to handle freight cars at the Lyublino-Sortirovochnaya Station whereas at Astrakhan, Semipalatinsk, Khabarovsk, and Saratov Stations it still takes 13-18 hours or more? It takes no more than 3 days to repair an ordinary diesel engine at advanced depots, whereas laggard depots take 15 days. What is the mighty apparatus of the Ministry of Railways doing when one of its main tasks is to make the most efficient use of the best experience?

The process of cadres' assimilation of modern management methods and new approaches to work is not running smoothly. The transfer to economic management methods and the broadening of the rights of associations and enterprises create a new situation for ministries and departments. As the USSR Draft Law on State Enterprises (Associations) notes, losses suffered by labor collectives as a result of the fulfillment of the instructions of a ministry which violated an enterprise's right are to be recompensed by the ministry which issued that instruction. That is why ministry and department apparatuses are expected to be more energetic than before, to avoid the trap of old provisions and instructions, to prevent instances of red tape, and to be more bold in delegating some of their rights to people at the local level.

A special responsibility now rests with ministry party committees. They must eradicate determinedly instances of bureacracy in the work of the apparatus and ensure that every member of the administration has studied the new methods of administration and management thoroughly and shown determination in mastering them. In this crucial period of restructuring no ministry or its workers can be allowed even for a day to be inactive, to cling to old methods of management, and especially to hinder restructuring.

While thinking of the future and resolving problems of reequipping production, the staff of every sector must keep in mind operational questions connected with ensuring the successful fulfillment of state plans and the supply of output in full and as ordered. This will be helped by the organization of skillful cooperation among enterprises and the development of mass socialist competition among labor collectives for a worthy greeting to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

DEATH OF FORMER DIPLOMAT FEDOR GUSEV REPORTED

LD101812 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1737 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 10 Mar (TASS) -- On Monday 9 March, Fedor Gusev, the prominent Soviet diplomat, died.

Fedor Gusev was born in 1905. From 1937 until his retirement in 1975 he worked in the USSR Foreign Ministry. In 1940 he was a member of the Soviet delegation at the negotiations with Germany. In 1942 he was the ambassador of the USSR to Great Britain. In 1945 he took part as head of the Soviet delegation in the conference of deputy foreign ministers in London to prepare peace treaties with Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland. He was a member of the Soviet delegation at the Paris peace conference, of the Soviet delegation at the Yalta and Potsdam conferences of the heads of three governments, and took part in sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London, New York, and Moscow.

From 1946-1952 he was USSR deputy foreign minister. From 1956-1962 he was USSR ambassador to Sweden and after that counsellor attached to the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The obituary, published here today, emphasizes that in all spheres of diplomatic service, Fedor Gusev fulfilled with honor the tasks entrusted to him in the implementation of the Leninist, peace-loving foreign policy, and devoted to this work all his efforts, experience, and knowledge.

MOSCOW GORKOM PLENUM REMOVES MEMBERS

PM041724 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 87 p 1

[Unattributed "Information Report": "Moscow CPSU Gorkom Plenum"]

[Text] A Moscow Party Gorkom plenum was held yesterday. The Moscow City party organization's tasks in fulfilling the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions "On Restructuring and Cadre Policy" were discussed.

The party gorkom bureau's report was delivered by Comrade B.N. Yeltsin, first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom.

Some 26 of the 67 people who had registered spoke in the debate.

The plenum unanimously adopted a resolution on the question discussed.

The plenum examined a report on the work of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom Bureau and Secretariat during the period since the 26th Moscow City Party Organization Conference.

The plenum examined organizational questions.

In connection with his retirement on pension Comrade V.V. Shiryayev, who worked as chairman of Moscow City People's Control Committee, was released from his duties as a member of the party gorkom bureau. Comrade P.Y. Dikarev, chairman of Moscow City People's Control Committee, was elected a candidate member of the bureau.

The plenum confirmed Comrade Ye.A. Zotov as chief of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom Trade and Consumer Services Department, and Comrade M.N. Poltoranin as editor of the newspaper MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA.

The plenum removed from the Moscow CPSU Gorkom Comrades A.P. Averchenkov, B.A. Gryaznov, I.F. Komzolov, G.I. Tomin, and I.V. Shakhmanov, who committed serious shortcomings in their work and failed to justify the trust placed in them.

The plenum promoted Comrade V.V. Vinogradov, first secretary of Sovetskiy CPSU Raykom, and Comrade A.S. Matrosov, acting deputy chairman of Moscow Gorispolkom, from candidates to members of the party gorkom.

Comrade N.A. Zolotarev, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Section, participated in the plenum's work.

Plenum Discussions Reported

PM020953 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 87 First Edition p 2

[Report by A. Shinkin: "Acute Assessments, Accurate Conclusions. From the Moscow CPSU Gorkom Plenum"]

[Text] As has been reported, on 21 February a Moscow Party Gorkom plenum discussed the tasks of the capital's party organization to fulfill the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. Today we are publishing notes on the plenum.

There has been constant interest in the party gorkom's work ever since new people joined the leadership, and it is not only Muscovites who are interested. When on assignments, fellow journalists are constantly asked: Now, how are things in the capital, are the changes noticeable, what is new?..

Yes, the Moscow party organization is a cynosure at the moment. A radical change has begun in ordinary life here; new forms and methods of work are being established resolutely. What are the first results? What requires clarification and adjustment? How can the decisions of the Central Committee January Plenum be implemented with maximum effectiveness?

Starting points. The plenum participants sought the answers to these questions primarily in an analysis of the work done over the past year.

Here are the indisputable facts, for example. The activity of the capital's working people has increased. Having pledged to overfulfill the 5-year plan targets with a smaller number of working people, Muscovites are endeavoring to find intensive ways of developing the economy. The first results are promising. The increase in industrial output was 4.6 percent, or twice the average annual indicators for the 11th 5-Year Plan. Labor productivity increased by 5.2 percent. Losses of working time fell by one-fourth.

Construction organizations' capacities increased, and there was emphasis on the social sphere. Twice as many kindergartens, hospitals, and health centers were constructed compared with 1985. Some 426 trade and public catering enterprises were opened.

This is the general picture, in "gross" terms, so to speak. An analysis "by item" gives less cause for contentment. The plan for contract deliveries was not met, albeit by only 0.08 percent, and 118 enterprises and organizations failed to cope with volume indicators. Six rayons in the capital made a mess of plans for commissioning housing and social, cultural, and consumer facilities. Product quality remains a very acute problem.

Work in January also confirmed that most party and economic bodies were using only superficial reserves. An efficient system of organization and management has not taken shape yet. Many enterprises essentially were unprepared for the introduction of state acceptance and the switch to two- and three-shift work.

The plenum participants concluded from all this that the results achieved cannot be called a new quality of work. By no means all party organizations and labor collectives in the capital have joined in the restructuring process.

Who is "calling the tune"? What are the reasons for the sluggishness?

"Many leaders," B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom, said in his report, "are not getting to grips with the changing economic mechanism and the increasing democratization of social life. People are still playing a waiting game and good decisions often fail to get off the ground and sink into a bureaucratic bog."

A. Chugarinov, party committee secretary at the jig-boring machine plant, expressed the following opinion on that score: "Restructuring at the grassroots level is being inhibited by irresolute party organizations. The secretary who hides behind the economic manager and does his bidding is still a common type."

As a matter of fact, these thoughts were expressed in various ways by many plenum participants. Of course, in Moscow there are many economic leaders and party organization secretaries who have actively joined in the new-style work and are operating in an enterprising and bold manner. However, the scales often still tip in the direction of those who are living by the old rules. A typical example is the work of T. Barkanova, director of the "Zhenskaya Moda" sewn goods association. She fulfills the plan by adjusting it. She looks for others to blame for any failure. And what kind of example is V. Kharitonov, director of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Refrigeration Industry, setting when he generates an intolerable moral and psychological atmosphere in the in the collective of which he is in charge?

According to the party raykoms, only one-fourth of those working people who cannot stand the natural strain of acceleration, whose thinking is sluggish, who are suffering from inertia and shun the new has been replaced so far. It is necessary, the plenum noted, to finally break the nomenklatura circle and replace officials with leaders of the new type. A comprehensive approach is needed in the selection, education, and placement of cadres.

Many speakers saw the promotion of capable organizers from the ranks of workers and young people as a really reliable reserve. This very year the Moscow Higher Party School is to set up a group comprising workers who are members of the party gorkoms, raykoms, party committees, or party bureaus.

There also was approval of the experience of the Likhachev truck plant, which has a five-stage system for improving qualifications with guaranteed advancement in service.

Begin with yourself. The party gorkom's assessment of its own work was self-critical. The report was frank about the omissions of members of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom Bureau. For example, Gorkom Second Secretary Yu. Belyakov has not yet managed to "build bridges" in the work of gorkom sections. Departmental empire-building, if one can say that about the party apparatus, is still typical of many, particularly sectoral sections.

The gorkom bureau members attributed the lack of concrete proposals on restructuring ideological work and the activity of party organizations in the science and education sphere to Gorkom Secretary Yu. Karabasov's poor knowledge of the specific situation and indecision in evaluating cadres and implementing the new approaches.

Party Gorkom Secretary O. Korolev has been slow to acquire party work experience and is not doing enough to strengthen contacts with raykoms. Because of her enthusiasm for certain frivolous areas, Gorkom Secretary A. Nizovtseva has lost a sense of perspective in the trade and consumer services sphere. There has been a lack of coherence in party Gorkom Secretary I. Pisarev's actions because of a desire to cover a wider range of problems connected with construction workers' activity while doing insufficient organizational work.

There was also criticism of the Moscow Gorkom first secretary over the lack of a system in work with cadres and for failing to ensure the solution of certain key problems of the capital's socioeconomic development.

By no means every member and candidate member of the gorkom is doing active work. Some of them only attend plenums. When talking about the unresolved problems, the plenum participants repeatedly returned to the party gorkom's work style. "The situation," A. Rudakov, first secretary of Kalininskiy CPSU Raykom, said, "is that the presentation of major problems for independent analysis is nearly always accompanies by petty tutelage and formalism on the part of the gorkom. There are fewer official documents, but the number of telephone inquires has sharply increased."

Yet is it possible to cite many examples where commissions checking on a party raykom or primary party organizations have given effective, concrete assistance in tackling particular matters? In fact, the commissions' purpose has been to identify as many shortcomings and phony facts as possible. It has obscured the main function of gorkom apparatus workers -- to instruct, explain tasks, and help find ways of eliminating shortcomings.

A Larionov, first secretary of Zelenogradskiy Party Raykom, suggested that gorkom workers do more in the way of studying and disseminating front-rank experience and increase the role of conferences. The purpose of conferences is not to issue instructions but to collectively discuss the solution of urgent questions. Gorkom workers must be bolder in beating a path to labor collectives and to the party grassroots.

Learning to work. All the speakers touched on this theme. It is an urgent one. It is not exactly easy for many leaders to abandon the accustomed notion that they know best how to act and who deserves what, but the deepening democracy and growing political and labor activity of the masses is unswervingly demanding a switch from administrative to economic methods of management, to a responsible and creative way of running things.

Everyone agrees with this, but they are in no hurry to act on it. In all of Moscow there is not a single enterprise where a labor collective council has actually started to manage. The obvious factors here are not only the ingrained penchant for one-man management on the part of those who see themselves as professional managers, but also the habit of a considerable number of "managed" people of doing only as much as is absolutely necessary.

We must overcome political idleness and apathy, it was said at the plenum, and restore to people -- or give to many for the first time -- the awareness that they and only they are the masters of production, the masters of the country.

Work has begun in the city on leader elections. We have had the first experience of it. It is important now not to make any mistakes and not mar this vital work with formalism and oversystematization. Elections must not be turned into another bureaucratic game.

There was an intense discussion at the plenum of cadres' receptiveness to criticism and openness.

"Of course, you do not get used to criticism instantly," M. Poltoranin, editor of MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA, said. "For years a gray curtain has been drawn over reality and some leaders have developed political color-blindness. It will take a great deal more effort to recover normal vision. It is a painful procedure, but a necessary one."

While destroying hackneyed thinking and the old mentality, it is necessary to help build the new one. It is necessary to find the experience, study it, and propagandize it, in short, to seek ways of improving life in the city.

The key to success today lies, the plenum participants unanimously concluded, in making work with cadres part and parcel of the key spheres of the struggle to accelerate socioeconomic development, as required by the decisions of the Central Committee January plenum.

OMSK OBKOM APPOINTS NEW FIRST SECRETARY

PM100901 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 87 First Edition p 2

[Report by our correspondent Yu. Shpakov: "Plenum Held"]

[Text] A plenum of the Omsk Obkom took place today to consider an organizational matter.

The plenum released from his duties S.I. Manyakin, first secretary of the Omsk Obkom, in connection with his appointment as chairman of the USSR People's Control Committee. Ye. D. Pokhitaylo, who worked as chairman of the Omsk Oblispolkom has been elected first secretary of the Omsk Obkom.

G.P. Kharchenko, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department, took part in the plenum's work.

BREST OBKOM ELECTS NEW FIRST SECRETARY

LD281650 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 28 Feb 87

[Text] The Brest Obkom held a plenum today to consider organizational issues. The plenum released from his post Comrade Sokolov, first secretary of the obkom, in connection with his election as first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee. Comrade Zelenovskiy was elected first secretary of the Brest Obkom. He worked as chairman of the executive committee of the Brest Oblast Soviet of the People's Deputies.

Comrade Sokolov, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the plenum.

GOSSTROY'S BATALIN DISCUSSES CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Capital Investment Policy

WA250100 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 1, Jan 87 pp 5-6

[Interview with Gosstroy Chairman Yu.P. Batalin: "The Reorganization Picks Up Speed" by EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA correspondent N.S. Yakovchuk]

[Text] The 27th party congress proclaimed a new investment policy. A central component thereof is a fundamental reorganization of capital construction and its increased efficiency. Yuriy Petrovich Batalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosstroy, answers questions put by EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA correspondent N.S. Yakovchuk as to how the realization of the congress' decisions is going.

[Yakovchuk] The 1st year of the 5-Year Plan is coming to an end. What has it been possible to do in this time to implement the new investment policy?

[Batalin] I would like first of all to emphasize that the investment policy being put into practice today really is new. It was formed proceeding from the concept of an acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development.

It is known that in past 5-year plans there has been a marked decline in the increase in capital investments. In the 8th and 9th 5-Year Plans it constituted 43 and 41 percent respectively, declined in the 10th to 38 percent and in the 11th fell to 17 percent. This situation is explained by many factors, including the limitation of investment resources and the lagging of the development of the capacity of construction organizations. However, not the least role has also been performed by the theoretical standpoints of many economists substantiating the normality of a reduction in the rate of growth of capital investments, primarily production in line with the development of the economy and the limitation of new construction in connection with the exhaustion of avalable labor resources. The increased efficiency of the economy and the transition to the tracks of intensification were in fact connected with a lessening of investment activity.

The reduction, however, in the production accumulation quota and the capital investment growth rate were negatively reflected in the overall dynamics of the development of the national economy, which, in turn, limited the possibilities of an increase in production potential, realization of the achievements of scientific and technological progress and the solution of social problems.

The policy of acceleration required a serious rethinking of capital investment policy. Considering the need for a fundamental reorganization of the economy and also extensive housing and sociocultural construction, it was deemed expedient in the 12th 5-Year Plan to increase the capital investment growth rate to almost 24 percent. The absolute amount thereof will in the 5 years constitute approximately R1 trillion. This reorganization began as of the 1st year of the current 5-year plan. In the past 11 months capital investments have increased 9 percent.

Another important area of the reorganization of investment policy is the redistribution of capital investments in favor of the modernization of operating enterprises. [paragraph continues]

This is not a new problem, but it has in practice been tackled very slowly. By the end of the 12th 5-Year Plan the proportion of resources channeled into the said purposes will have increased to 50 percent. In the 1st year of the 5-year plan approximately 41 percent of total production capital investments was channeled into retooling and modernization. In 1987 this proportion will have risen to 45 percent, which is almost 3 points higher than the 5-year plan expectations for the corresponding year.

Worn and obsolescent machinery and equipment is being simultaneously withdrawn from production. In the current 5-year plan it will constitute 5-6 percent annually compared with 2.3-2.5 percent in the past. All this will afford an opportunity to considerably replace the production equipment, overcome the trend toward its increasing deterioration, free people from work on unproductive machinery and equipment requiring large outlays on repair and maintenance and make fuller use of newly introduced and modernized capacity.

Considerable changes are occurring in the sectoral structure of capital investments. There is a sharp growth in the volume of resources channeled into machine building -- the base sector for the retooling of the economy. In the 12th 5-Year Plan they will grow by a factor of 1.9. However, the sector's development needs are such that this must be seen as the minimum. Possibilities will be sought in the annual plans for the additional allocation of resources for machine building. Upon realization of other national economic programs -- fuel and power, food, production of construction materials, chemicalization of the economy -- capital investments are being concentrated in the spheres on which a qualitative upgrading of production and its increased efficiency primarily depend. For example, the rate of increase in capital investments providing for efficient methods of the recovery and conversion of fuel is twice as high as in the fuel and power complex as a whole. In the chemical industry resources for the development of the production of progressive types of plastics will grow several times more rapidly than in the sector as a whole.

An important distinguishing feature of the new investment policy is the surmounting of the "residual" approach to the allocation of resources for the needs of the social sphere. The 5-year plan provides for the commissioning of apartment houses with an area of 595 million square meters compared with 552 square meters in the past 5 years. But measures for a considerable increase in this amount are being studied currently. Preschool establishments for 4.4 million children compared with 2.9 million in the 11th 5-Year Plan will be introduced. The commissioning of schools, hospitals, and clinics will increase.

The structure of capital investments has been actively rebuilt even in 1986. In the 1987 plan the scheduled changes will be consolidated. Thus the proportion of resources for nonproduction construction in total capital investments is envisaged next year at almost 3 points higher than scheduled by the 5-year plan. More resources have been allocated for housing construction, which will provide for the introduction of 126 million square meters of total apartment house area. This is 9 million square meters more than envisaged by the 5-year plan.

Successful realization of the investment program demands, as the party congress observed, a fundamental improvement in matters in capital construction. Many problems have built up over many years here. Many construction organizations are chronically failing to fulfill plans, disrupting timeframes for the introduction of facilities and permitting construction cost overruns. The poor quality of work has become a real nuisance.

In August 1986 the party Central Committee and the government adopted fundamental documents pertaining to an improvement in management and an upgrading of the economic mechanism in construction. Decisions were also adopted on measures to ensure the installation of facilities within the standard timeframes, expand modernization and develop the direct-labor method of construction and on the further development of the industrialization of construction, an upgrading of the organization and remuneration of labor in the sector, and an improvement in planning-estimates work.

These decisions encompass practically the entire panoply of questions of the development of construction industry. Their adoption completed the initial stage of the formation of the new system of management in construction. The main thing now is to "incorporate in work" in full, as quickly as possible, the economic levers and incentives contained in the new economic mechanism and, on this basis, strive for a fundamental improvement in the state of affairs in construction.

[Yakovchuk] Yuriy Petrovich, could you not name the fundamental differences of the new economic mechanism in construction and describe briefly how their realization has begun?

[Batalin] Considerable changes in the system of the economic mechanism are connected both with a strengthening of planning principles and the more extensive use of commodity-money relations and economic levers and incentives.

The focus of the 5-year and annual plans and valuation indicators on the commissioning of facilities has been intensified. The fulfillment of contract commitments pertaining to the introduction of facilities together with the profit and labor productivity growth indicators are now the main indicators of the construction organizations' activity.

The nature of the indicator of the volume of construction-installation work is changing appreciably. It is used as the basis for the conclusion of contract agreements and the planning of measures pertaining to the development of the capacity of the construction-installation organizations. Strict attachment of the volume of work to the timeframe for the commissioning of facilities stipulated in the contract agreements and the consistent transition to the construction of "turnkey" facilities make this indicator not simply a characterization of work done but reflect the realization of contract commitments and plans geared to the commissioning of the facilities.

But the main thing, of course, is not individual indicators but the new mechanism in the whole complex thereof. The use of economic quotas is expanding appreciably. Per the quotas determined in the 5-year plan a wage fund, economic incentive funds, and a common development, science and technology fund are formed in the ministries and contract construction organizations. Payments into the budget are determined per the quotas also.

There is evidently no need to prove that the application of the quotas will produce results only if they are of a long-term, stable nature and the workforce has full confidence that its efficient work will be rewarded and that oversights will reduce its own possibilities and lead to diminished earnings. Then incentives for the mobilization of available potential will emerge also, fear of revealing one's possibilities will be removed and there will be increased responsibility.

Unfortunately, the process of the formation and notification of the construction-installation organizations of the entire set of quotas has in 1986 been running late. [paragraph continues]

Every conceivable adjustment to the quotas and the reallocation of resources between organizations are continuing. This flawed practice, on whatever good excuses it is exercised, undermines the efficacy of the application not only of economic quotas but also the entire system of genuine cost accounting. For this reason assimilation of the mechanism of management of the socialist economy on the basis of long-term quotas is an important task for workers of all levels -- from the central machinery of the ministries through the lower components, as far as the teams.

Contract relations between client and contractor have hitherto been of a formal nature. In fact the state has assumed the functions of client, and the direct participants in the investment process have frequently manifested a lack of responsibility for end results.

Now the contract agreement must be the main document regulating relations between client and contractor and determining their mutual economic responsibility. This principle has been made the basis of the normative documents which have been drawn up determining the rules of the elaboration and conclusion of contract agreements for capital construction.

Aware of the new role of the contracts and their direct "in-built nature" in the system of the economic mechanism, a number of contract organizations and clients have adopted a more careful attitude toward the conclusion of contract agreements. However, such rebuilding is far from typical of all organizations. There have as yet been no serious changes in relations between clients and contractors. Many people believe that the formal nature of the contracts will continue. For this reason preliminary in-depth study of them and the necessary technical and economic estimates and feasibility studies are not being made. This position is fundamentally wrong. And those who are not reorganizing in earnest will encounter tremendous difficulties after the contracts have been concluded and could find themselves in a difficult financial situation. After all, the assessment of the work of the construction organizations and the economic incentives and strict penalties provided for by the new system of management are connected with the contract agreements and the timeframes for the performance of work per production stage and complex determined therein.

The transition to contract prices for the construction product is a qualitatively different stage in the formation of contract relations between client and contractor.

Until the present time, the main document on the basis of which the volume of work of the construction-installation organizations was planned and material and other resources and the wage fund were allocated was the estimate compiled in accordance with working drawings. Payment for the work performed was made on the basis thereof. This situation did not contribute to an improvement in planning decisions or a reduction in the cost of production.

The transition to contract prices, which are not subject to alteration throughout the construction period, changes the state of affairs. The construction, installation, planning, and other organizations participating in the installation of facilities have a direct interest in an improvement in modular and technological designs; the introduction of efficient materials, structures, and products; and an improvement in the organization of construction, the use of progressive machinery, and mechanisms and the implementation of other measures to reduce the cost of construction since the bulk of the savings against the contract price is at their disposal and may be used by the workforce for tackling production and social tasks and the material encouragement of the workers.

The efficiency of applying contract prices has been confirmed by the experience of Belorussia. Where they have been applied there expenditure on construction has declined almost 5 percent on average, although earlier it grew, as a rule.

Under the conditions of the upgraded quotas pertaining to economies in material resources the transition to contract prices together with development of the system of complete cost accounting and self-financing represent the main anti-expenditure components of management.

[Yakovchuk] And will the construction projects which have already begun also be directed in accordance with contract prices?

[Batalin] Yes. The adopted decisions provide for the determination prior to the end of 1986 of contract prices for facilities to be constructed in 1987. This work has been completed in respect to a number of them. However, it was ascertained in the course thereof that some construction projects, major ones even, are being directed without confirmed design plans and estimates. For many construction projects started long since, these plans are seriously outdated. Many client and contractor organizations have proven unprepared for the transition to contract prices.

This work needs to be speeded up and completed as quickly as possible. All the necessary normative-methods documents have been prepared, and sound experience, primarily Belorussian, exists. It is therefore necessary to emphatically abandon the waiting for some supplementary sets of instructions, directives and clarifications and set to work.

[Yakovchuk] But will there not be an attempt by some workers during the transition to contract prices to improve their organizations' economic situation thanks to price-padding?

[Batalin] There could be such attempts, and we must undoubtedly put a stop to them. But we cannot get bogged down in trifling matters endlessly. It is necessary to afford the clients and contractors more freedom of action and create the conditions ensuring that the established contract prices are regarded as the law regulating the relations of clients, contractors, and banks.

At the same time it needs to be borne in mind that the formation of contract prices is based on quotas used when determining the estimated cost of construction. Anarchy and the purely market approach to price-formation are thereby overcome. At the same time there is increased flexibility in the relations between clients and contractors. When contract prices are being determined, of the contractors' additional outlays connected with the organization of construction in newly developed areas and performance of the work at a fast pace is taken into account.

The efficacy of the new management mechanism depends directly on the introduction of a system of genuine cost accounting, self-recoupment, and self-financing as arterial directions of an upgrading of the system of socialist management. Strict dependence between the results of the construction organizations' work and the resources at their disposal for development of production, remuneration and material incentive, and satisfaction of the social needs of the workforce has been introduced. The role of profits as a source of self-financing rises appreciably, and the direction connection of the economic incentive funds to the size of profits has been established.

The gradual transition to the complete cost accounting and self-financing of the construction-installation trusts, which are the main financially autonomous component in construction, is planned. The main territorial and specialized construction administrations and, in succession, the republic and union construction ministries will be transferred to this system.

It should be said that the economic levers geared to the fulfillment of contract commitments and the timely commissioning of facilities are, on the one hand, of an incentive nature and, on the other, provide for severe economic penalties. In no other sphere of our economy, perhaps, is there such strict conditions as yet. I shall mention just some of them. The procedure in accordance with which payment for work on facilities is made within the limits of 95 percent of their estimated cost is already operating. The final settlement, however, is made after the completion of the construction and official registration of the state approval commission deed. Upon nonfulfillment of the quarterly plans of work per production stage and complex provided for by the contract agreements, the client does not pay for the work that has been done, and it is not included in the accounts on fulfillment of the plan of contract work until the deficiency has been made up. To cover expenditures in this situation the construction organizations avail themselves of credit involving payment to the bank of interest, which pertains to the results of the construction organization's economic activity. Given disruption of the established time for the commissioning of capacity and facilities, up to 3 percent of the cost of the construction-installation work pertaining to the noncommissioned facilities is collected from the contractor as budget revenues.

Not all measures are as yet being realized successfully, however. For example, the production stages and work complexes have not been distinguished everywhere and they have even less been reflected in the contract agreements and contract prices have not been formed. All this is holding back the efficient application of economic levers, incentives, and penalties. However, this situation is temporary and transitional.

It is very important that construction workers seriously change their attitude toward the financial-economic aspect of activities. I wish to highlight this problem specially because the economic work of the organizations and their profitability as yet rarely appear in the managers' attention zone. As a result approximately 20 percent of construction organizations are currently unprofitable.

[Yakovchuk] Decisions were adopted in 1986 on the serious reorganization of the management of capital construction. How is this work going?

[Batalin] The broadening of the independence and responsibility of economic components for the results of work and the transition to economic methods of management require the increased efficacy of centralized management. The USSR State Construction Committee -- the standing body of the USSR Council of Ministers for managing the country's construction complex -- has been formed and is getting down to work.

Considerable reorganization has been undertaken in the all-union construction ministries. They are now organized per the territorial principle and are oriented to a far greater extent toward accomplishing the strategic tasks of developing the construction industry and introducing new technology, progressive construction materials, structures, and work techniques and progressive forms of the organization of construction. The transition to economic methods of management and the abandonment of petty tutelage of the construction organizations is under way. The significant reduction in the strength of the central machinery of the construction ministries will contribute to this. Some of them -- the USSR Ministry of Construction in Northern and Western Regions of the USSR, USSR Ministry of Construction in Southern Regions of the USSR, and the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Urals and West Siberia Region of the USSR -- have already cut the staff strength 45 percent on average. Other union and republic ministries and also the main territorial administrations and various middle-tier management authorities are carrying out this work currently. The strength of their staffs will be reduced 30 percent.

The republic construction ministries have been transferred to the direct jurisdiction of the union republic councils of ministers. This broadens the rights of the union

republics and enhances their role and responsibility in economic building. However, the past months have shown that this responsibility has not been recognized in full everywhere. In some republics, the construction of national economic facilities is being managed far worse than facilities of republic and local significance. There are many such examples in Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and the Ukraine.

In RSFSR territory, construction is performed with the resources of the all-union ministries.

[Yakovchuk] Yuriy Petrovich, at the start of our conversation you mentioned that switching to the "turnkey" installation of facilities is being contemplated. How will this transition be effected?

[Batalin] This progressive method is based on the fact that the contract construction organization is invested with obligations pertaining to design, equipment procurement, and the performance of construction-installation and, if necessary, startup-adjustment operations. Approval and settlements between client and contractor are effected given the 100-percent readiness of the facility or complex due for startup.

The intention, as of the start of 1987, is to begin right now the transition to the "turnkey" construction of apartment houses, and as of 1988, children's establishments, schools, and technically straightforward production facilities. The construction of more complex facilities also will be undertaken under this system subsequently.

The formation of design-industrial construction associations and firms for the installation of "turnkey" facilities has begun in a number of regions of the country. Such associations have already been set up in Krasnodar and Kalinin and a number of other cities. As a rule, the associations are formed on the basis of operating house-building works. The associations incorporate design and design-engineering subdivisions, enterprises for the production of construction products and structures, construction-installation organizations, and mechanization, transport, and production-engineering component-batching subdivisions. We have set the task of creating as quickly as possible in each republic, kray, and oblast a minimum of one-two associations. The quicker they are created, the more rapidly the transition to the "turnkey" installation of facilities will be completed.

[Yakovchuk] Tell us, please, how the party congress' demand for an emphatic end to the dispersal of forces and resources in capital construction and a reduction in the time taken to install facilities is being realized. After all, this is not the 1st decade that this task has been advanced, but the situation has not improved....

[Batalin] Today we build production facilities in an average of 8-9 years. But we need to build two-three times faster. The embodiment of new designs is being slowed and tremendous resources are frozen in incomplete construction owing to "long-time construction". There is one further serious aspect. The disorderly nature of the construction front and its imbalance with respect to the available resources and capacity of the construction organizations are undermining many provisions of the new economic mechanism and upsetting the economic levers and incentives envisaged therein.

This is why the 27th congress set the task of a considerable reduction in the time taken to install facilities.

What has been done? The ministries and departments have been instructed to provide for a temporary halt at construction projects which cannot be provided with the capital investments for their introduction within the normative period, particularly if their technical level does not meet current requirements.

It was resolved in 1986 even not to accept for financing newly begun construction projects the duration of whose construction per the itemized lists exceeds the norm. As of 1987, the same procedure will apply to carryover construction projects in respect of which the capital investment and construction-installation work quotas have been allocated in amounts less than is necessary for the completion of their construction within the normative period.

These measures have produced certain results. The halting of a number of construction projects is planned. The possibility of foregoing the installation of certain facilities earlier scheduled for construction or deferring the time of the start of their installation has been found. As a whole, the proposals of the ministries and departments provide for a reduction in the construction front of 10-15 percent.

[Yakovchuk] This is sufficient for the transition to construction within the normative timeframes?

[Batalin] No. Calculations show that the construction front needs to be reduced by approximately one-fourth.

[Yakovchuk] And what is the ministries' attitude toward this?

[Botalin] Many are continuing to insist on the installation of facilities not supported by financial and material resources and planning documents. Nor are the construction workers displaying exactingness. In violation of the standards for the duration of construction, client-ministries and contractors have for next year compiled itemized lists for more than 900 carryover construction projects of the state plan list. This is approximately 22 percent of their total. In other words, there are still many people who hope that the new system of management will not operate fully. It is essential to overcome this mentality. We need to build, as we live, within our means.

[Yakovchuk] How has the reorganization which is under way been reflected in the work of the construction workers in the year gone by and what do you consider the main tasks in the year to come?

[Batalin] There has been a certain improvement in the state of affairs in capital construction. There has been a pronounced increase in the commissioning of fixed capital.

The situation concerning the construction of facilities of the social sphere has improved. The pace of the introduction of schools, preschool establishments, hospitals, and clinics has risen. Construction industry efficiency indicators have improved. The rate of increase in labor productivity constituted 4.2 percent compared with the planned 2.9 percent, and outlays on the installation of facilities are declining.

However, there has as yet been no fundamental breakthrough. The deadline for the commissioning of facilities has been disrupted in many instances, and modern methods of construction, efficient structures and materials, and progressive forms of the organization of production and labor are not being applied quickly enough.

It is therefore premature to speak of any significant successes. In fact the reorganization in the investment complex is at the very start of its journey.

Its success will largely depend on how quickly the trusts, administrations, and brigades accomplish the transition to the new work methods not on paper but in actual

practice. Waiting for additional clarifications, instructions, and regulations continues in many places. I would like to say clearly: the construction organizations have been accorded extensive rights. Thre is only one right which they do not have today -- the right to inaction. It is necessary to switch to working in the new way as quickly as possible. He who delays risks finding himself in a difficult situation. The new economic mechanism will hold such managers and outfits fully responsible.

Speaking of other main tasks for 1987, I shall mention the most pressing. We will actively build up the capacity of the construction organizations, transfer them to a new engineering footing and progressive techniques and methods of construction, and develop construction industry capacity. It is necessary to convert construction into a single industrial-construction process on a modern S&T basis.

Unfortunately, construction workers at many of the facilities of their own industrial base are appreciably underfulfilling the plan quotas.

Despite the fact that there are serious problems in the provision of the construction workers with new equipment, it has to be said that there is a huge potential here and that the resources at construction's disposal are in many instances being used unsatisfactorily.

It is well known that some production capital, machinery, and mechanisms are in poor condition here. Depreciation of fixed capital constitutes approximately 50 percent compared with 30 percent in 1970. Many types of equipment have been in use 20 years and require big outlays to keep in working condition. Of course, it is hardly possible to sharply increase the influx of new equipment today or tomorrow. This will take time. For this reason we need to seek different ways of tackling the problem right now. Calculations show that having organized, for example, the two-shift operation of the new highly productive machines, it is possible to dispense with 17 percent of worn-out excavators, 18 percent of bulldozers, and 12 percent of crane operators and tower cranes.

The well-known outfit of the trust led by N.I. Travkin adopted a decision on the transition to a two-shift sliding work schedule. This experience is extraordinarily relevant for the construction and construction materials industry.

A fundamental task for the coming period is the creation of our own machine building. Without this the construction complex simply cannot develop normally. The scale of our own machine building has to be increased by a factor of at least two and one-half to three.

It must be said that many people are still counting on obtaining resources from the state for this. In vain. The main path is developing construction industry thanks to earned capital and the use of bank credit. It has been determined that expenditures thanks to credit may be made over and above the established capital investments quota in respect of highly efficient measures pertaining to retooling, the modernization of operating works, and the expansion of enterprises of one's own base with a recoupment period for these measures of up to 5 years. The conditions for obtaining credit have been eased. It is necessary to make active use of this.

In the next year or 2, it will be necessary to transfer production bays, construction-installation administrations, trusts, and other organizations on a par with them to such a promising form of organizing and stimulating labor as the collective contract. It makes it possible in practice to link measures pertaining to improving management from above with the development of collective forms of the organization and stimulating labor from below, including the broad working people's strata in the work on increasing production efficiency and mobilizing the human factor.

It is essential to extend contract principles to the industrial and transport enterprises, research and planning organizations, design offices, subdivisions of the nonproduction sphere, and other organizations and enterprises which are a part of the construction organizations and ministries.

The accomplishment of the impending tasks pertaining to a fundamental improvement in matters in capital construction depends directly on the personnel composition of the managers and specialists employed in the sectors and on their competence, boldness and readiness to reorganize. Being a good executive is not enough today. The new economic mechanism in construction demands independence, an ability to make correct use of economic levers and incentives, and a display of socialist enterprise. This applies to workers of all levels of management. Of course, personnel policy must be correspondingly reorganized also.

A very important question is the training of personnel, managers and specialists particularly. It is necessary for everyone to assimilate the new economic mechanism and master in full the forms of economic work contained therein.

The new tasks will not be accomplished by the old methods. Profound and decisive reorganization is needed. And we need to reorganize more quickly. Such is the demand of the times.

Main Tasks Enumerated

WA250200 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 87 p 2

[Interview with Yu. Batalin: "The USSR at the Construction Site: -- first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] At the request of PRAVDA correspondent A. Chekalin Yu. Batalin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosstroy, describes the scale and qualitative characteristics and ways of improving construction.

I would like first of all to speak about the role of the construction workers and construction. The bold project of designers who have created the outline of a new machine and the creative labor of engineers and workers who have embodied it in metal will only produce results when the construction workers have installed the machine in a new shop or one being modernized. That is, the country develops via construction. If we erect facilities rapidly and with high quality, more good commodities will, consequently, appear on the counters, the renewal of all sectors will be accelerated and house-warming parties will be organized more frequently.

But construction workers have accumulated many debts recently. Now the sector, more precisely, the construction complex is acquiring a dynamism. Its organizational structure has been streamlined, and the rights of the trusts have been extended. It is profitable for them to reduce the cost of facilities. There has come to be more order in planning, and capital investments are being allocated with the expectation that the facilities will be erected without delays and within the normative period.

And one further singularity of the present plan -- orientation toward the end result. Until recently our economic mechanism was timid in prompting ministry leaders and client-enterprise managers to modernize operating production. Instead of the replacement of equipment in old shops, they started on increasingly new construction projects. Now the situation is changing. The withdrawal factor of worn-out and obsolescent capital in the machine-building complex has approximately doubled. In the national economy as a whole 45 percent of industrial capital investments is being channeled into retooling and modernization. Compared with the past year they will have grown 12 percent.

It may be said in connection with the last two figures that this is all expenditures, but it is the results which are important, that is, the construction product ready for operation. For this reason it is envisaged that the rate of the introduction of fixed capital will increase by a factor of 1.4 compared with the increase in capital investments. A pretty good indicator, but it could have been even higher. We need to strive to ensure that the ruble spent on the installation of shops is not just recouped within some normative period of time but is more rapidly doubled: one ruble compensating for the expenditure, the other being net profit. Concern for this will undoubtedly strengthen noticeably with the industrial enterprises' transition to real cost accounting and self-financing, given a radical broadening of their independence and responsibility for end results.

The assertiveness of the workforce and the input of each worker acting the part of coproprietor of social wealth depend directly on how fully his material and spiritual requirements are satisfied. This interconnection can be traced distinctly in the plan. It is planned to build houses to the extent of 15.8 million square meters or almost 16 percent more than the average annual introduction of housing in the last 5-year plan. The absolute figure is 126.2 million square meters. Kindergarten and creches for 880,500 children, schools (for 1,283,700 children), and outpatient-clinic establishments (182,100 visits per shift) will be commissioned. All this considerably exceeds the 5-year plan targets. And fulfillment of what is planned is not only in the hands of construction workers proper but also those who manufacture good-quality materials, structures and equipment for socio-cultural facilities and domestic purposes. That is, the success of construction workers is directly linked to the efficiency of labor in the country's heavy industry.

The machine-building complex -- the foundation of technical progress in all sectors -- is primary. Its potential is being actively renewed and increased. As can be seen from the diagram of the most important facilities due for completion which has been published today, shops at the Leningrad Metal, Kharkov Turbine, Khabarovsk Diesel Engine Manufacturing, and a number of other plants will be modernized. There will be increased instrument-production capacity at the Cheboksary "Elektropribor" Plant and in the "Signal" Association (Tashkent). Thanks to the introduction of new facilities, more products will be manufactured by the Machine Tool-Building plant in Alma-Ata, the auto manufacturing plants in Ulyanovsk and Yerevan, and the Tula Combine Plant, the "Tselinogradselmash," the "Rovnoselmash" and the Urgench Fodder-Harvesting Machinery Plant in Uzbekistan. The production of mainline electric locomotives in Tbilisi and Novocherkassk will increase.

High targets are planned for the development of the fuel and power complex. Turbines at nuclear power stations, including the Balakovskaya AES, will be commissioned. In Central Asia and Siberia, where there are large reserves of hydraulic power, gas, and coal, preference has been given to hydraulic and thermal sttations. Current will be produced by units of the Shulbinsk GES (Semipalatinsk Oblast), the Surgut (Tyumen Oblast) and Berezovka (Krasnoyarsk Kray) GRES, and the Amur (Khabarovsk Kray) and Kamchatka and Anadyr (Magadan Oblast) TETs.

Gas industry will be developed at a preference rate. Mainly thanks to Yamburg, which is in northern Tyumen Oblast, blue fuel production will grow and amount to 712 billion cubic meters. Commissioning the Yamburg-Yelets (second leg), Yamburg-USSR western border and Okha-Komsomolsk-na-Amure gas pipelines is planned. It is important in their construction to make more active use of the unit-modular method and the collective contract.

The economy will receive almost 10 million tons more coal. The imeni 7 Noyabrya (Kemerovo Oblast) and "Urgal" (Khabarovsk Kray) mines will be modernized, and the "Berezovskiy" (Krasnoyarsk Kray) and "Novoraychikhinskiy" (Amur Oblast) strip mines will be commissioned. New oil deposits will be developed, including in the Caspian

region where, from Tengiz, laying a pipeline to Groznyy is planned, a section of which -- from Kulsary to Guryev -- will be completed in 1987 even. The Novki-Ryazan-Tula-Orel (second stage) and Kurgan-Tyumen and Chimkent-Tashkent petroleum product pipelines will be commissioned.

The structural and technical reorganization in ferrous metallurgy and the petroleum-refining, chemical, and petrochemical sectors of industry will be actively continued. The smelting of steel in converters and electric steel-smelting furnaces will, in particular, increase. Precisely such works will be built at the Cherepovets Foundry imeni 50-letiya SSSR. A "550" mill will be commissioned at the Dnepropetrovsk Foundry imeni Petrovskiy, as will a pipe-extrusion shop at the Volzhskiy Pipe Plant (Volgograd Oblast). The updating and development of coal tar chemical industry in Nizhniy Tagil and Dneprodzerzhinsk will be completed.

The manufacture of mineral fertilizers in Solikamsk (Perm Oblast), fibers and chemical fibers in the Mogilev "Khimvolokno" Association and synthetic resins at the Omsk Plastics Plant will increase.

In accordance with the comprehensive program of the development of consumer goods and services there will be increased capapcity at light industry enterprises. At textile, cotton-spinning, spinning-weaving, and garment factories and in integrated works in Chelyabinsk and Kherson, including Uzbekistan, Georgia, Bashkiria, and many other places. Important tasks confront construction workers in the solution of the food program. Among the important facilities due for completion are meat-canning and dairy works, sugar refineries, and milling enterprises. Several poultry factories, modernized plants for the production of canned fruit and vegetables and elevators and storehouses for the storage of farm products will come on stream.

Transport is like the circulatory system of the national economic complex. Developing all forms thereof at a high rate is planned. Several sections of the Baykal-Amur mainline railroad approximately 500 km long and the Kholmogory-Urengoy railroad line will be permanently commissioned. Moorage at the seaports in Vladivostok and Sakhalin Oblast and mechanized moorage at the river ports in Leningrad and Tyumen oblasts, including Urengoy and Nadym, will be introduced.

Production capacity in the construction industry and timber and wood-processing industry will increase. It will include plants for the manufacture of bricks in Krasnodar Kray, Chelyabinsk and Tyumen oblasts, and Kiev and Dzhezkazgan. And products for improved-series large-panel homes will come to be produced in Kemerovo Oblast, Lipetsk, Yakutsk, Irkutsk, and Krivoy Rog.

The construction base will be improved in other areas also. Its constant consolidation is a guarantee that the 1987 plan, albeit very taut, will be fulfilled.

But the main guarantee, I am sure, is the bold reorganization of management methods. The ministries and union republic councils of ministers to whose direct jurisdiction large-scale construction capacity has been transferred must switch the trusts as quickly as possible to genuine cost accounting, self-recoupment, self-financing, and self-management.

To replace the appeals to the labor collectives to, say, speed up and improve there should come the economic need to accelerate the installation of facilities, reduce their costs, and improve quality. Operating on such principles, the labor collectives themselves will, per inherent requirement, begin to seek and apply innovations, make zealous use of material resources and strengthen discipline and order at each workplace.

The Gosstroy is instructed not only to pursue a uniform S&T policy but also direct the work of the ministries which are a part of the construction complex. And, of course, will actively eliminate interruptions and lack of coordination which exist or could arise in the economic mechanism. Specifically, between the now increased responsibility of the trusts for the end result and their rights.

In unison with the practical workers and with all participants in the investment process it is essential to swiftly create such a system of management as to, at a minimum, halve the time taken to install facilities and sharply improve their quality. In a word, to fully satisfy society's need for capital works.

QUALITY CONTROL DIRECTOR INTERVIEWED ON OUTPUT

LD041850 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 4 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 4 TASS-- The average wages of the staff of the Tyumen farm machine factory in Western Siberia last January dropped by a third as state quality inspectors there rejcted some of the manufactured mineral fertilizer spreaders as defective.

State quality control has been introduced at the factory, just as at 63 other enterprises in the industry that produces agricultural machinery, from the start of this year.

Boris Rozhnov, chief of the Product Quality Directorate of the Soviet Ministry of the tractor and Agricultural Machinery Industry, admitted in a TASS interview that cases similar to what had happened in Tymen had taken place also at some other factories covered by the new scheme.

"Despite serious preparatory work, some of the factories in the industry have proved unfit for work under the new system," he said, adding that the situation at those enterprises, including the Tyumen works, was being rectified.

The share of output in the tractor and agricultural machinery industry that passed state quality control the very first time it was presented for inspection, without being sent back for spoilage reclaiming, had now grown to almost 77 percent, up from less than 20 percent in the end of last year, Rozhnov said.

The previous quality control scheme proved inadequate because, among other things, the quality inspectors were not financially accountable for the standard of their service.

"Now that skill ratings, a piece work plan and higher bonuses have been introduced for them, their real wages have increased more than 50 percent," Rozhnov said, noting also that many major factories had instituted the posts of deputy directors for quality.

Two special working groups led by a deputy minister, he added, had studied the experience of quality control arrangements at a Minsk factory manufacturing spare parts for tractors and decided to promulgate its methods.

Output at the factory was checked both by its own inspectorate and by state quality inspectors in cooperation with officials from the state Committee for Standards, Rozhnov said.

Besides, quality control arrangements there covered different stages of production and assembly, he added.

TOLSTYKH ATTENDS ACADEMY DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

LD091328 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] A large team of Soviet scientists has begun implementation of the comprehensive plan for the joint work of sector and academic institutes. Its aim is to resolve priority scientific problems which are of paramount importance for industry. This was announced at the annual general meeting of the department of problems of machine-building, mechanics and control processes at the USSR Academy of Sciences, which took place in Moscow today.

The party's 27th congress and the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, emphasized Frolov, the department's academician secretary and vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, who opened the meeting, have set Soviet science responsible and large-scale tasks and have mapped out the priority orientation of its development. In implementing restructuring, the department has noticeably expanded fundamental and applied research in the area of machine-building. Scientists are concentrating their efforts on developing theoretical bases for fundamentally new types of machinery and technology. Jointly with machine-building ministries, the department has elaborated a plan of work on fundamental problems of machine-building. To speed up the introduction of new developments into series production the department has organized, together with a number of ministries, joint sections and laboratories at works and production associations. The restructuring of the entire work of the USSR Academy of Sciences, noted the vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, will be the subject of broad discussion at the USSR Academy of Sciences annual general meeting, which opens on 10 March.

Comrade Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Committee for Science and technology, took part in the work of the meeting.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CONFERENCE OPENS MAR 10

Ligachev, Slyunkov Attend

OW101127 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0930 GMT 10 Mar 87

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] A session of the annual general conference of the USSR Academy of Sciences opened today in Moscow. Participants in the session are discussing raising the role of the USSR Academy of Sciences in accelerating scientific and technical progress and more efficient use of the country's entire research potential.

Comrade Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, opened the session. Comrades Ligachev and Slyunkov are participating in the work of the general conference.

Marchuk Opens Session

LD102102 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Raising the role of the USSR Academy of Sciences in intensifying scientific and technical progress, more efficiently utilizing all potential research -- these are the questions on the agenda of the session which has opened today in Moscow of the annual general meeting of the Academy of Sciences.

The session was opened by the academy's president Guriy Ivanovich Marchuk. Concerning the tasks of science, he said in particular:

[Begin Marchuk recording] The 27th party congress has oriented us toward the active development of fundamental research in all spheres of modern science. As an inalienable part of our society and as a very important instrument of restructuring, science itself requires restructuring. As before a major problem for us is the creation of domestically-produced lines in computers. We need computer systems from super-computers down to personal computers; important shifts have already occurred here, both in industry and in institutions of the Academy of Sciences. But they must be multiplied.

In the sphere of mechanics in control processes, nonlinear mechanics is actively beating a path for itself -- a completely new, qualitative behavior and solution associated with quasi-resonant effects. Work in the sphere of quasi-resonant effects makes it possible to find energetically-optimum solutions which will lead to the creation of a new generation of technology. New composite materials are becoming increasingly significant in the creation of machinery and equipment, improving by several times the characteristics of strength and others. We place great hopes on ultra-dispersed, amorphous, ceramic and plastic materials, which will take our mechanical engineering to the very frontiers.

Problems of laser technology are at the forefront in new methods for machining metals. Unfortunately all that can be said is that this work is for us being greatly delayed, and now the Central Committee and the Government have given us a number of assignments in order to take this sphere to the forefront of science, techniques and technology.

Economy of resources is becoming a major task for all industries in the national economy; and consequently academy and higher educational science must prepare for them a fundamental job to get on with, because we cannot solve this problem by simple organizational means. But we must think not only of today's business: Fundamental research must overtake the demands of technology and production. In carrying out research we must always bear in mind the creation of theoretical bases of the techniques and technology of the future. This is one of the main tasks of the academy, and only a successful solution can ensure the intensification required of scientific and technical progress. [end recording]

Comrade Ligachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Slyunkov, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and Comrade Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology are taking part in the work of the general assembly of the academy.

The assembly will continue its work tomorrow.

TASS Details Marchuk Speech

LD101737 Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS -- The main item on the agenda of the annual assembly of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which opened in Moscow today, is enhancing the role of the Academy in accelerating progress in science and technology and making a more effective use of this country's scientific potential.

Academician Guriy Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, pointed out the successes scored by scientists in all fields of knowledge, but, in his opinion, particularly rapid advances have been made in computer engineering. Thus, in particular, a prototype of a supercomputer is being successfully tested. It is superior in its speed of response to all the computers of this type available in this country. The machine can perform up to one hundred million operations per second.

There are good prospects, Marchuk believes, for the chemists engaged in synthesising materials with preset properties. The composites obtained recently meet many demands made by industry.

Touching upon questions pertaining to reorganization, Marchuk said that it involves the organization of research activities, planning and coordination of work. Excessive centralization in the work by scientists is eliminated and democratic principles are being deepened, openness is being strengthened in the management of research work, the responsibility of research teams for the results of their work is increased.

COSMONAUTS CORRECT MIR ORBITAL PARAMETERS

LD101036 Moscow TASS in English 1033 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS -- Soviet cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin are continuing their work aboard the space station Mir (Peace).

In keeping with the flight program, they have lately been unloading the unmanned freighter Progress-28 and installing new equipment in the station.

Yesterday, for example, they mounted additional automatic equipment to serve as part of the power supply system and today they will complete the installation of, and test-run, the Korund (Corundum) unit meant for experiments connected with space material studies.

Using the propulsion system of Progress-28, the orbiting path of the Mir complex was corrected yesterday to meet the following parameters:

Maximum distance from earth -- 386 kilometers.

Minimum distance -- 355 kilometers,

Period of revolution -- 91.7 minutes,

Inclination -- 51.6 degrees.

According to reports from orbit and telemetry data, the flight is proceeding normally.

Romanenko and Laveykin are in good health and feeling well.

SOKOLOV, LIZICHEV ADDRESS WOMEN'S COUNCILS

PM100957 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 87 First Edition p 2

[Report by Major Yu. Mamchur and Ye. Agapova: "Lofty Vocation"]

[Excerpt] From garrisons far and near they came to Moscow for their big military women's council. This is how the meeting was graphically described by its participants -- chairmen and members of women's councils and instructors who work with the families of military servicemen.... They had been invited by the USSR Ministry of Defense and the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy to frankly discuss the problems of everyday life experienced by military servicemen's families and the role played by women in the restructuring process.

Many remembered the excited discussion at the All-Union Women's Conference which determined the tasks to be resolved by the women's councils now being set up at enterprises and institutions and in places of residence. It was there, at this conference, that the work performed by the Armed Forces women's councils, which date back to the distant twenties, was warmly spoken of. A great deal has been said and written on the subject of that bright but terrible time and the glorious deeds performed by the wives of the Red commanders. Their traditions are being carried on today by our modern women. Their men perform their tour of duty in distant garrisons, at border outposts, and on islands in the ocean in severe cold, intense heat, storms, and blizzards. And with them are -- their wives. Because the family and service are indivisible concepts. It is in a strong family that a person finds spiritual strength, moral support, warmth, and tenderness -- in short, everything that cannot fail to affect service matters and the moral outlook of officers, ensigns, and warrant officers -- in fact, the whole collective. It also ultimately affects the standard of combat readiness. This was discussed at the meeting by Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister.

At a time when imperialism continues to count on military strength and the U.S. Administration is making every effort to continue the arms race -- in space -- and when the international situation remains potentially explosive and the threat of war is growing, our Communist Party devotes unremitting attention to the country's defense capability. The Soviet people show tireless concern to ensure that the Armed Forces have everything necessary to defend our motherland. And army and navy personnel must make every effort to enhance their vigilance and discipline and strengthen the combat ability of their units, ships, and subunits.

Officers, ensigns, and warrant officers are primarily responsible for this. They control strategic missile complexes, nuclear submarines, and supersonic aircraft and are responsible for leading personnel subordinate to them. A leader's authority must be irreproachable and he must set a model example. This is where military servicemen's wives and women's councils can make a tangible contribution. This is because it is the wives who take care of the husbands and the wives who largely determine the domestic conditions and moral atmosphere within the family. It is a secret to no one that the stronger and happier the family, the better the service performed by the officer. In spite of the difficulties and problems this family may have to face. Military personnel cannot live a settled life, after all. They serve wherever they are told to go. And their wives and children go with them. That is why it is particularly important for commanders, political organs, and women's councils to give attention and sympathy to every family -- young families in particular -- and help them as much as possible.

It should be noted that a fair amount has been done in this direction recently thanks to the activeness displayed by women's councils. Nevertheless, a great many unresolved issues still remain. How is ideological education work carried out with military servicemen's wives? How is their spiritual world enriched? Is everything possible being done to organize their leisure sensibly? Does an improvement in military servicemen's wellbeing always lead to a corresponding improvement in the standard of their morals? Unfortunately, one also encounters phenomena such as a consumer mentality, money-grubbing, and acquisitiveness, when material values push spiritual values into the background.

And what role is played by the women's councils, for example, in the heroic-patriotic education of young boys and girls? The question of whether the sons will follow in their fathers' footsteps and whether the profession of defending the motherland will be inherited and carried on largely depends on the education the young person receives actually in his family. In short, making the families of officers, ensigns, and warrant officers stronger and more cohesive is our prime task.

Unfortunately, insufficient attention has sometimes been given to social issues and to meeting the needs of military servicemen and their families. It must be admitted that people have become reconciled to this situation in many places. We see the answer as lying in increasing the responsibility of officials, building more housing, kindergartens, schools, and stores, and taking care to ensure that our military towns are made more comfortable and provided with better facilities. The women's councils can also play an important role in this respect. The question of how well maintained our homes and hostels are, how order is introduced, and how a sober lifestyle is established largely depends on the activeness, efficiency, and principle-mindedness of women's councils. It is essential for women's councils to cooperate more closely with commanders, political organs, and local organs of authority in questions relating to the development of sociocultural life.

The women's councils' sphere of activity is really boundless. This was also confirmed by the All-Union Women's Conference, at which their tasks were set. It is very important that Armed Forces women's councils act even more boldly and persistently today and help to resolve the issues which are now of prime importance in the task of enhancing combat readiness and improving the education of officer personnel and members of their families -- this idea was expressed in the speech by Army General A. Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The restructuring process, which affects every aspect of work by the women's aktiv, gives us reason to suppose that garrison life will become more beautiful and meaningful in every respect. This will be helped by the party course aimed at implementing a strong social policy, which is reflected in the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the January (1987) CPSU Central Committee plenum. [passage omitted]